

## CHAPTER LI

### THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SANDY DESERTS OF PERSIA

LET us now take up again the thread we dropped on page 181. It was the question of the localization of driftsand in the Persian deserts. When we were approaching Alem we had a belt of driftsand on our left, that is, to the north, and the dunes rose to 30 feet in height. In Alem I was told that the belt extended for 7 farsakh northwards, where it ran into the Kevir and was lost. North-westwards it was said to run for 9 farsakh, also becoming lower and disappearing. The road from Alem eastwards skirts on the south a huge sandy area connected with the foregoing. It is nothing but a conglomeration of sandhills forming reddish-yellow and greyish-yellow accumulations. Its southern margin is sharply defined and skirted by a belt of saxaul. In other places it sinks into much lower dunes, at most 25 feet high. Another road between Alem and Chupunun, north of the one I took, runs partly through blown sand, partly through offshoots of the Kevir. On the road from Chupunun to Jandak there are always huge dunes on the left; they are as much as 130 feet high. We found the great southern bay of the Kevir on the road from Cha-meji to Tebbes surrounded by pure sand in dunes 100 feet high, partly overgrown with thin tamarisk and saxaul, partly bare. This sandy zone north of the road I followed from Cha-meji to Tebbes is said to extend far to the north-east, past Halvan. The dune area I passed on the way to Aruzun after the eastern crossing of the Kevir may be considered part of this huge sandy zone.

Evidently it is also a southern lobe of this sand-belt