

Whole hillocks of sand will be transported from one place to another when the wind blows hard. We had enjoyed a taste of these siroccos in Askizar, where the courtyard, during the afternoon, was filled with clouds of sand."¹

M'Gregor also, describing the advance of the sand towards Yezd, says that the advance is of course very slow, but seems to be very constant. Sykes says: "Quitting Yezd, our road ran across a sandy tract, which was, however, cultivated in parts, to Hujetabad where a fine *caravanserai* and reservoir for water had been recently constructed. All around was a sea of sand."

In Southern Afghanistan lies Rigistan south-east of the Hilmend and its great tributary, the Dori. Rigistan signifies sandy desert. We have here an example of sand in Eastern Iran accumulating not only south of depressions but also south of rivers. We find the same disposition in Turkestan, where the sandy desert Muyun-kum is situated to the south of the river Chu, Kizil-kum south-west of the Syr-darya, and Kara-kum south-west of the Amu-darya. It is the same in India, where the great Indian desert lies south-east of the Indus and Sutlej. In this region northerly winds prevail, at any rate in winter. Walther considers that these masses of sand come from the sandy silt on the flat left banks of the large rivers. Thence the sand moves in the form of broad deserts south-westwards, and advances like an encroaching sea over the level plains. He gives the rate of advance as 20 feet a year. "Another source of desert sand is the bottoms and shores of lakes with a fluctuating level, and also the bottoms of dried-up lakes."

In Eastern Turkestan, also, we find large masses of sand on the south and south-west of rivers and lakes Tarim and Lop-nor. Roborovski describes the sandy desert Ak-bel-kum, which extends along the southern shore of Bagrash-kul. The sandy desert Kum-tag, which, according to Obrucheff, has been piled up by the prevailing north-easterly and easterly winds, lies to the south-west of Kalachi-nor, where the river Buluntsir falls into it. The same explorer found the old beds of the Hwang-ho south of Khara-narin-ula

¹ *Six Months in Persia*, vol. ii. p. 4.