

him we gave it up and went off with the two dromedaries, leaving a man behind with the refractory beast.

Gravelly eminences and valleys clothed with vegetation alternated as heretofore. In one of the latter the grasshoppers were so thick that we had to ward them off with our hands that we might not have them on our faces. It was calm and still, but sometimes a gust of wind came from one direction or another. To the right of our road ran a large longitudinal valley with a not inconsiderable belt of sandhills. Here and there were seen nomads with dromedaries, sheep, and goats. During the hottest hours of the day the last take shelter under the luxuriant tamarisks.

After riding up and down a while among hillocks we came again on to a plain stretching far before us to the east. The bungalow of Dalbendin was the best we had hitherto seen, snug, roomy, and well kept (2913 feet).

The next day's journey brings us to Karabuk (2871 feet), and on May 10 we ride to Yadgar-cha. Here, too, we are at a height of 2871 feet—the differences of altitude are in general very slight on this road. To the right a belt of quite high sand again lies, but south of it is cultivable land, wheatfields, and at the foot of the hills villages with fruit trees. The road runs in zigzags to avoid projecting points of the sandy area. The heat is not so bad, for the temperature is only 96.1° , after 60.8° in the night. But the sun is hardly up before beetles and grasshoppers are about. The latter destroyed the wheat three years ago.

The bungalow of Yadgar is placed in a small flat hollow with ground of silt level as a floor, and through this the well is sunk to a depth of 25.1 feet. The water is turbid, but quite sweet, and it had a temperature of 73.8° . The place presented a very lively scene, for the nomads were there to water their animals. There were quite 500 dromedaries, 200 sheep, and a number of asses. The dromedaries lay down in groups after drinking. They would get another draught before returning to their pastures. The men were bearded and copper-brown, and wore a white turban bandage round the head, and only one other garment, a pair of wide trousers. By means of a roller resting on two posts, they