



and one wonders how they can support even the half-dozen homesteads. Yet even here where Nature is so harsh, defence against human foes was not so very long

ago a necessary condition of existence. The path which leads to the plateau is guarded at a point of great natural strength by a rude gateway or 'Darband,' a necessary precaution seeing that the opposite bank of the river was easily accessible to the people of Nagir, the hereditary enemies of Hunza.

HUNZA VALLEY BELOW KHAIBAR.

From Khaibar to Misgar there are two routes available, one leading through the hamlet of Gircha by the left bank of the river, and the other through Khudabad on the right. The former, which was said to be easier if the water of the river was not too high, was reported impracticable soon after I had started on the morning of June 25th. Hence the track on the right bank had to be taken. Without offering exceptional difficulties that day, it was trying enough, leading almost the whole length over boulder-strewn slopes and along banks of slatey shingle. Just opposite to the hamlet of Murkhun, where