

SECTION II.—EXCAVATION OF THE ENDERE TEMPLE

On the morning of February 21 we continued south-eastwards, and after a march of about three miles sighted in the distance what the guides called the 'Potai' of the 'Kōne-shahr'. Even from afar I could recognize through my glasses that it was a Stūpa, as I had, of course, assumed when this feature of the site was first vaguely mentioned to me at the Mazār. It was interesting to note that on approaching the Stūpa we passed through a belt of sand-cones thickly covered with living tamarisk and the scrub known as *Ak-tiken*. It was here, at a distance of about three-quarters of a mile from the Stūpa, that we found an old well, which, when cleared to a depth of 9 ft., yielded sufficient but rather brackish water. About half a mile west of the Stūpa we reached eroded ground plentifully strewn with pottery fragments, and this continued up to the ruin itself, which such typical 'Tati' débris surrounded on all sides. A rapid inspection of the Stūpa proved that the ground near it had been eroded to a depth of from 10 to 15 ft. in different places, as clearly seen in Fig. 50, which shows the ruin from the south-west side, together with the bare loess and low sands behind it¹. Nor was I surprised to find that the ruin had been dug into in two places, no doubt in search of treasure.

Approach
to Endere
Site.

The contingent of labourers ordered up from Niya had arrived just when I was nearing the Stūpa. Considering the great distance, some 120 miles, from which the men had been brought, and the difficulty of communicating with them over wholly uninhabited ground, I felt not a little pleased at this well-managed concentration, which enabled me to start excavation work at once. Leaving, therefore, the accurate survey of the Stūpa for later, I pushed on with increased eagerness south-eastwards to where the remains of 'old houses' were said to exist, which held out better antiquarian promise than either Stūpa or the Tati around it. For about a quarter of a mile the pottery-strewn ground continued, the eroded bare loess soil being exposed in wide patches amidst dunes not exceeding 5 to 6 feet. Among the pottery fragments, mostly small and showing long-continued abrasion, I noticed a good deal of coarse black terra-cotta and occasional pieces retaining a green glaze. Representative specimens of these materials will be found described in the list of antiques (E. 006). Then followed dunes somewhat higher, and among them occasional sand-cones with scanty tamarisk growth. Shrivelled trunks of dead Toghraks emerged here and there from the drift-sand in the depressions between the dunes, but no trace of structural remains appeared until I had arrived quite close to the dunes surrounding the ruins which the guides from Imām Ja'far Sādiq and Yārtunguz had spoken of as 'old houses'. The rows of wooden posts rising above the sand were a familiar sight. But the high brick walls of some large building and the remnants of a massive clay rampart encircling the ruins presented a novel and very striking feature.

'Tati'
around
Stūpa of
Endere.

Going over the ground I soon realized that the extant portions of the rampart, which was largest and best preserved on the south, had belonged to a circumvallation approximately circular and enclosing an area which the subsequent careful survey (see plan in Plate XXXVI) proved to be nearly 420 ft. in diameter (including the thickness of the walls). The large building towards the eastern segment of the circumvallation (E. III) was found for the greater part almost clear of sand, and clear, too, of objects that could claim archaeological interest. But west of it a broad dune stretched across the interior of the fortified area, and near the centre of the latter I noticed rows of wooden posts just rising above the sand. Their arrangement in con-

First inspec-
tion of
ruined fort.

¹ The line where the lowest course of masonry and the original ground-level meet is marked by the foot of the 10 ft.

measuring staff; see also plan in Pl. XXXVII.