

and is correctly mapped in the Survey of India Sheet No. 24. H. Hence no detailed account is needed of the three marches commenced on April 15th which carried us to Deh-bakrī. The succession of passes crossed, varying from about 5,400 to 7,700 feet in height, assured welcome relief after the intense heat of Jīruft, but the painful blisters which exposure to the sun had caused to the lips would not heal for some time to come. The verdure of the young wheat-fields and of the orchards near the villages passed, together with the ample tree growth on the hill-sides, was most refreshing for the eyes. The only old remains seen on these marches were two ruined *sarais* at each foot of the Deh-bakrī pass, said to date from Shāh 'Abbās's time and, no doubt, much appreciated by travellers when heavy snow in the winter renders the pass troublesome to cross.<sup>1</sup> Much decayed remains of a small fort, evidently of Muhammadan times, were to be seen on a steep knoll to the west of the pass.

From the pleasant village of Deh-bakrī, ensconced among shady groves of walnut and other fruit-trees, one march across a bare stony glacis brought us down to the walled village of Darzīn, and the next along the wide valley to Bam. The utter barrenness of the valley, broken only by *kārēz*-irrigated patches of cultivation at two villages, and the still more desolate appearance of the hill range overlooking it from the north, made me feel on this final march how near Bam lies to the great desert of the Dasht-i-Lūt. At another season it would have been an attractive task to search along its edges and in the wide arid tract of Bam-Narmāshīr to the south-east for old sites abandoned to the desert. Both physical causes and destructive human factors are likely to have left on that ground interesting traces of the changes they have worked since prehistoric times. For, just like Sīstān, its distant north-easterly neighbour, Bam and its Narmāshīr have always been exposed to inroads, productive of ruined sites, from Balūch and Afghāns or their ethnic precursors. But the places at which mounds and other remains were mentioned to me by local informants were too far away to be examined from Bam at this season.

So, during the three days' halt which arrangements for transport imposed and which camping in a local notable's fine garden rendered pleasant, I had to content myself with visits in the immediate neighbourhood. The ruins of Fahrābād, scattered about 3 miles to the south-east of the town over a waste of bare clay and gravel, proved to be the remains of large residences of late Muhammadan times. They were now being gradually pulled down for the sake of the manuring earth secured from their thick mud walls. The small fort of Chihil-

<sup>1</sup> The ruined *sarai* to the south of the pass 'though nothing but a dark and miserable stable' afforded 'a most welcome harbour of refuge' to

Sir Frederic Goldsmid's party in January 1872, when belated; see *Eastern Persia*, i. p. 239.