

occupants of its hundred-odd mat-huts receive ample water from 7 or 8 *qanāts*. Their discharge fills a stream which, in a narrow gorge, breaks through rugged low hills and farther down joins the Gulāshgird river, which passes through the same hills about 3 miles to the west of Darra-shōr.

Intelligent guidance secured at Darra-shōr made it easy to visit from there, on November 24th, several ruined sites at short distances to the north. Together with those large series of burial cairns they clearly proved that this tract with its potentially fertile soil must have held a much larger settled population during historical times. After inspecting a number of *damb*s at the hill foot west of our camp above Darra-shōr, we were led across the scrubby plain to the north-west. After covering about 2 miles over ground where several pottery-strewn patches marked former occupation, we reached a conspicuous mound rising some 24 feet above the flat alluvial plain. It measures about 270 yards from north-north-west to south-south-east and some 230 yards across at its widest. It is known by the name of *Hissār*. Apart from the plentiful plain potsherds of coarse red or yellowish ware there were found on the surface fragments of glazed blue, green, and yellow pottery; also some of superior burnished red ware, thin and painted with simple lines or hachures in black (D. shor. 15, 20; Pl. XXV). A few pieces of similar terra-cotta-like fabric show burnishing; others are incised with comb-drawn scrolls or are neatly ribbed (D. shor. 9, 19; Pl. XXVI). Pieces of green glass of varying thickness could be picked up in numbers. There was found also the fragment of what seems to have been a bronze vessel. The general impression I received was that the site marked by the mound had been occupied from early historical times and for a prolonged period. The absence of any worked flints and of alabaster fragments militates against the assumption of occupation having started at the site from chalcolithic times.

Going about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the north-east from Hissār, past clumps of large tamarisks and abandoned *qanāts*, there was reached an extensive debris area close to the east of the domed Ziārat-i-Dāniāl. It stretches for some 420 yards from north-east to south-west and about 380 yards across. At the north-eastern end low mounds of earth, about 88 yards square, mark the position of a ruined fort. Medieval occupation of the site, probably in early Muhammadan times, was proved by an abundance of pottery fragments strewn the ground. Among these were numerous remains of relief-decorated ware produced from moulds and closely resembling in style that found at the ruined town near Behkird in Jīruft.⁴ Local production is indicated by pieces of moulds. Glazed potsherds showing relief or painted decoration are also of the type represented at the Jīruft site. Import from the Far East is attested by a number of fragments of porcelain

⁴ See above, pp. 152 sq.