

من المصادر الإلكترونية في مكتبة قطر الرقمية ٢٠٢٢/٠١/١٨ تم إنشاء هذا الملف بصيغة PDF بتاريخ  
النسخة الإلكترونية من هذا السجل متاحة للاطلاع على الإنترنت عبر الرابط التالي:

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تحتوي النسخة الإلكترونية على معلومات إضافية ونصوص وصور بدقة عالية تسمح بإمكانية تكبيرها ومطالعتها بسهولة.

### "مذكرات لرحلة عبر كردستان في شتاء ١٨٨١-١٨٨٢"

المكتبة البريطانية: أوراق خاصة وسجلات من مكتب الهند

IOR/L/PS/20/202

١٨٨٣ (ميلادي)

الإنجليزية في اللاتينية

ملف واحد (٢٨ ورقة)

[رخصة حكومة مفتوحة](#)

المؤسسة المالكة

المرجع

التاريخ/ التواريخ

لغة الكتابة

الحجم والشكل

حق النشر



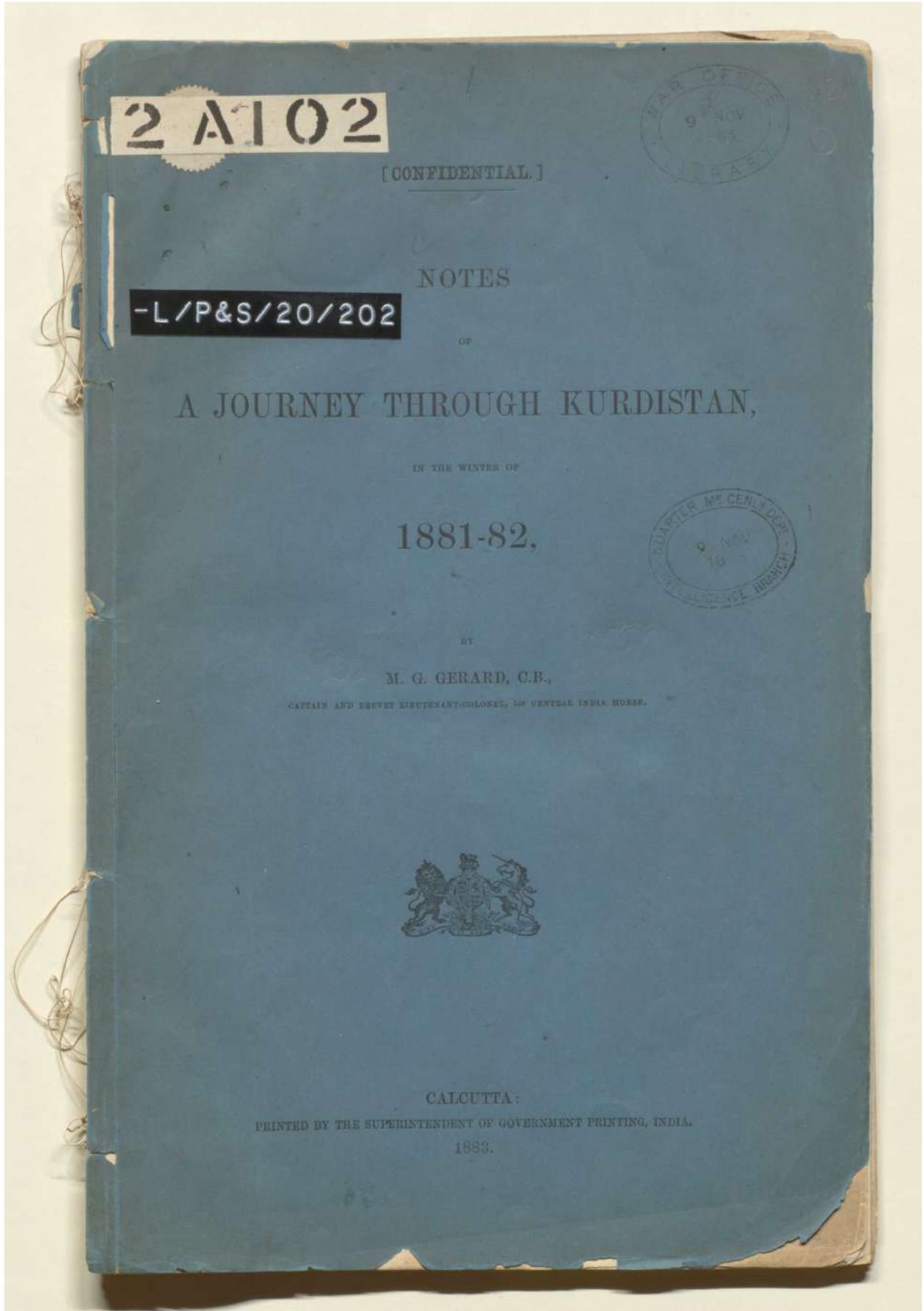
### حول هذا السجل

إعداد النقيب مونتيجو جيلبيرت جيرارد، والمقدم بريفيث، خيالة وسط الهند الأولى، نشره إدارة قائد الإمداد والتموين في كلكتا.

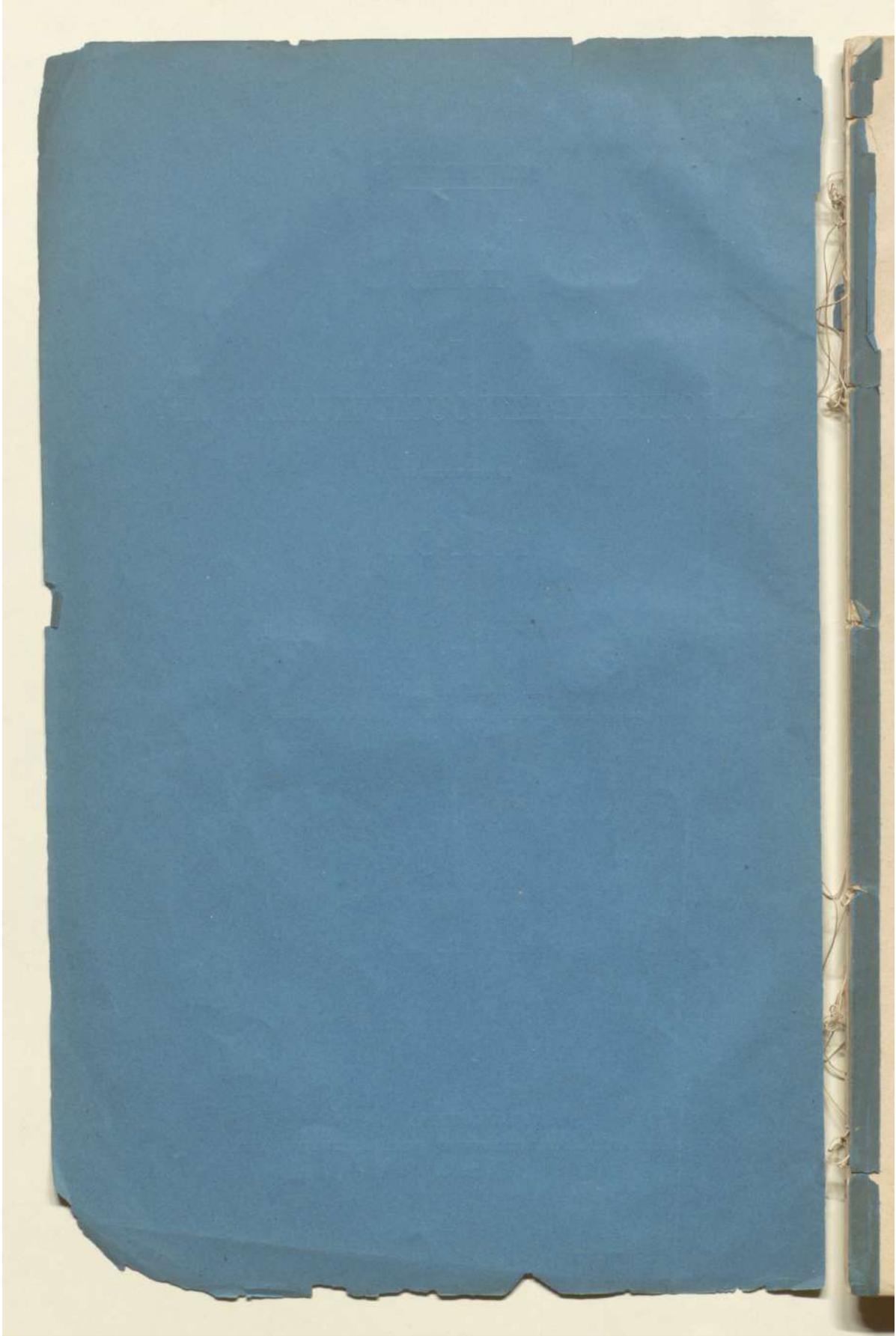
تتكون المذكرات من تدوينات يومية خلال الفترة من ١٥ نوفمبر ١٨٨١ إلى ١٦ أبريل ١٨٨٢، توثق كل مرحلة من رحلة النقيب جيرارد عبر العراق وبلاد فارس. تحتوي كل تدوينة على معلومات بشأن المدن والقرى التي زارها، بما في ذلك إحداثيات الطول والعرض، والمعلومات الجغرافية عن المناظر الطبيعية، الوصف المادي للأماكن، معلومات سياسية عن حاكم كلا المكانيين والمناطق المحيطة وولائها، ونصيحة سفر لمن يرغب في القيام برحلة عبر منطقة كردستان. كما تتناول التدوينات أيضاً الأعراف ومستحقات الحجر الصحي التي دفعت في الطريق والأسواق التي زارها، بما في ذلك أنواع البضائع المتاحة والبلاد التي أتت منها هذه البضائع.

تشتمل الأماكن الرئيسية التي تنقل خلالها الزبير، البصرة، بغداد، الحلة، كفري، كركوك، الموصل، مياندواب، تبريز، تسوج، أرومية، بوكان، سقر، بانه، بنجوين، السليمانية، بنجوين، كرمانشاه، قصر شيرين، خانقين، وبعقوبة.

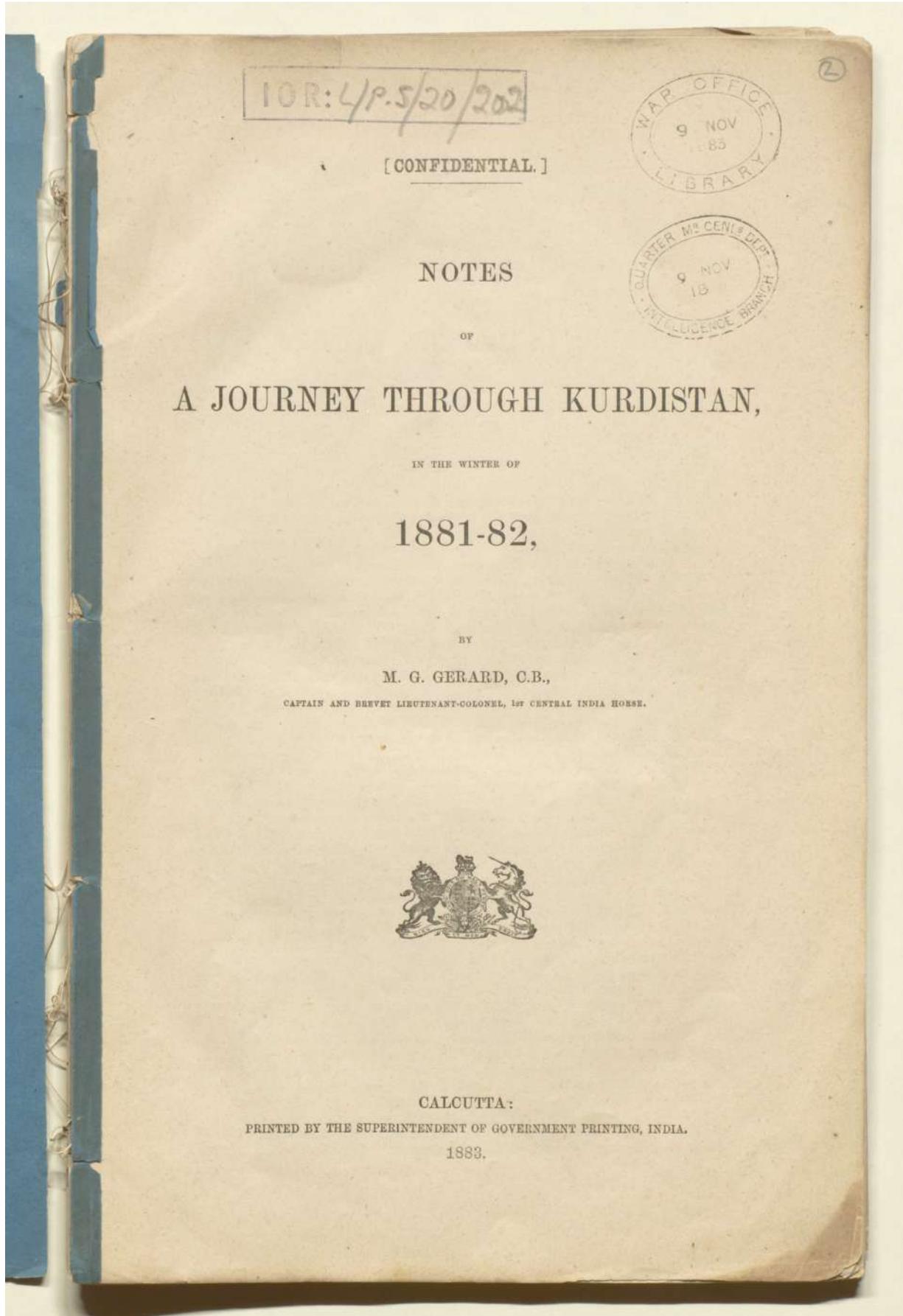
"مذكرات لرحلة عبر كردستان في شتاء ١٨٨١-١٨٨٢". [أمامي] (٥٦/١)



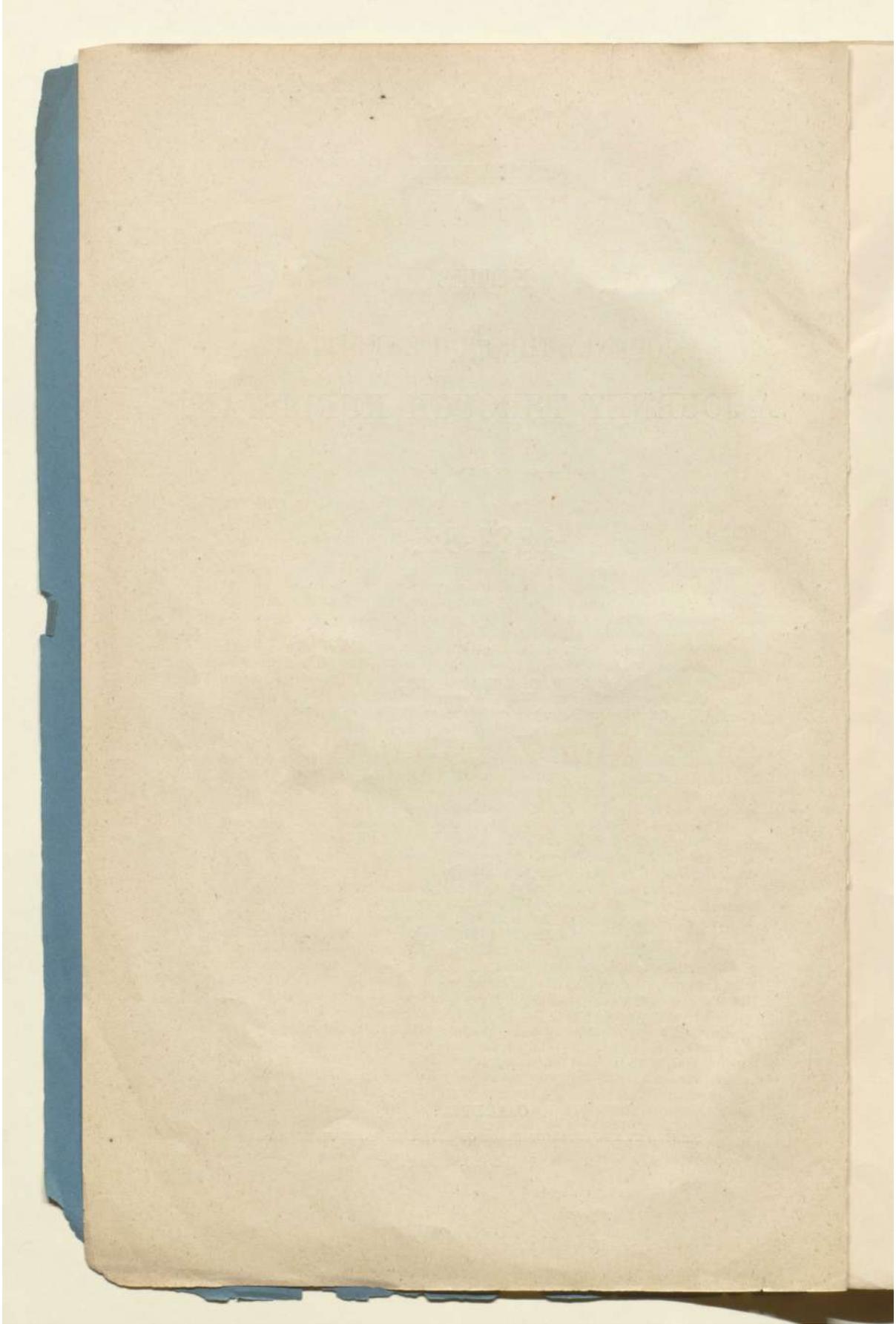
"مذكرات لرحلة عبر كردستان في شتاء ١٨٨١-١٨٨٢". [أمامي-داخلي] (٥٦/٢)

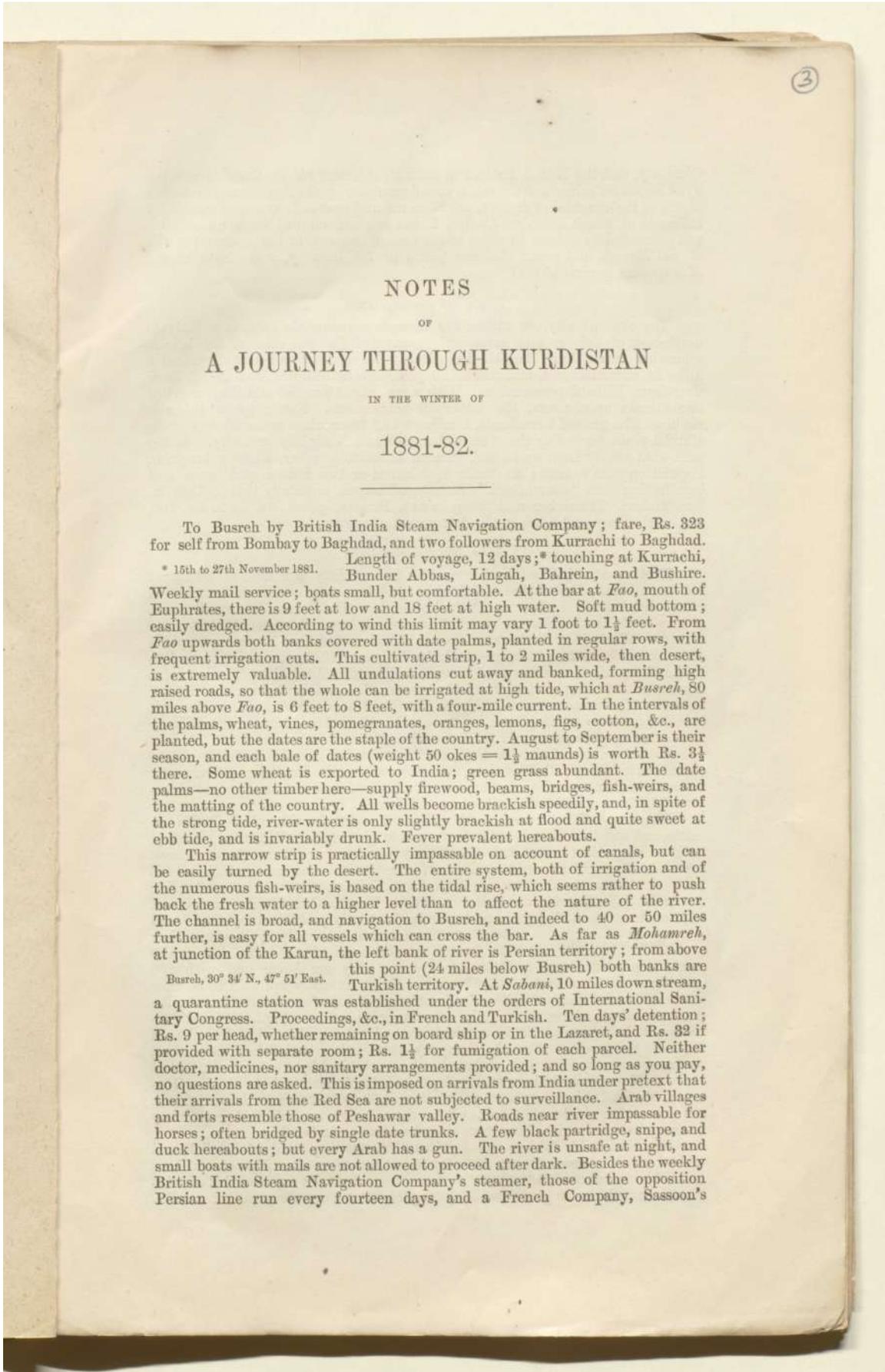


"مذكرات لرحلة عبر كردستان في شتاء ١٨٨١-١٨٨٢". [٢] [٥٦/٣]



"مذكرات لرحلة عبر كردستان في شتاء ١٨٨١-١٨٨٢". [ظ٢] (٥٦/٤)





To Busreh by British India Steam Navigation Company; fare, Rs. 323 for self from Bombay to Baghdad, and two followers from Kurrachi to Baghdad.

\* 15th to 27th November 1881.

Length of voyage, 12 days;\* touching at Kurrachi, Bunder Abbas, Lingah, Bahrein, and Bushire. Weekly mail service; boats small, but comfortable. At the bar at *Fao*, mouth of Euphrates, there is 9 feet at low and 18 feet at high water. Soft mud bottom; easily dredged. According to wind this limit may vary 1 foot to 1½ feet. From *Fao* upwards both banks covered with date palms, planted in regular rows, with frequent irrigation cuts. This cultivated strip, 1 to 2 miles wide, then desert, is extremely valuable. All undulations cut away and banked, forming high raised roads, so that the whole can be irrigated at high tide, which at *Busreh*, 80 miles above *Fao*, is 6 feet to 8 feet, with a four-mile current. In the intervals of the palms, wheat, vines, pomegranates, oranges, lemons, figs, cotton, &c., are planted, but the dates are the staple of the country. August to September is their season, and each bale of dates (weight 50 okes = 1½ maunds) is worth Rs. 3½ there. Some wheat is exported to India; green grass abundant. The date palms—no other timber here—supply firewood, beams, bridges, fish-weirs, and the matting of the country. All wells become brackish speedily, and, in spite of the strong tide, river-water is only slightly brackish at flood and quite sweet at ebb tide, and is invariably drunk. Fever prevalent hereabouts.

This narrow strip is practically impassable on account of canals, but can be easily turned by the desert. The entire system, both of irrigation and of the numerous fish-weirs, is based on the tidal rise, which seems rather to push back the fresh water to a higher level than to affect the nature of the river. The channel is broad, and navigation to *Busreh*, and indeed to 40 or 50 miles further, is easy for all vessels which can cross the bar. As far as *Mohamreh*, at junction of the Karun, the left bank of river is Persian territory; from above this point (24 miles below *Busreh*) both banks are Turkish territory. At *Sabani*, 10 miles down stream, a quarantine station was established under the orders of International Sanitary Congress. Proceedings, &c., in French and Turkish. Ten days' detention; Rs. 9 per head, whether remaining on board ship or in the Lazaret, and Rs. 32 if provided with separate room; Rs. 1½ for fumigation of each parcel. Neither doctor, medicines, nor sanitary arrangements provided; and so long as you pay, no questions are asked. This is imposed on arrivals from India under pretext that their arrivals from the Red Sea are not subjected to surveillance. Arab villages and forts resemble those of Peshawar valley. Roads near river impassable for horses; often bridged by single date trunks. A few black partridge, snipe, and duck hereabouts; but every Arab has a gun. The river is unsafe at night, and small boats with mails are not allowed to proceed after dark. Besides the weekly British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer, those of the opposition Persian line run every fourteen days, and a French Company, Sassoon's

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Company, and the British India, run monthly steamers *vid* the Canal to Europe. Syud Rajab Nakabzada of Busreh, a young man who speaks English and is the son of one of the notables of district, called on me and took me out shooting, and by influence of Sheik Esau-ben-Curtas, I was released on 3rd from quarantine, and proceeded to *Zobeir*, 10 miles south-west of Busreh, in the desert; the site of old Busreh and scene of great battle of 7th century, and death of the Mohamedan general of that name.

*Zobeir, 4th December 1881.*

The ancient city, or rather the mounds marking the spot, is a little to north-east of Zobeir, and extensively excavated for the sake of the bricks, somewhat resembling English fire-bricks. Zobeir is a walled town, about 2 miles in circumference, and settled 80 years ago by refugees from *Nejd*, fugitives from Wahabi persecution. With some slight Turkish aid they repelled two attacks upon them, the latter 50 years since. Not a green thing is visible. The ground hereabouts, 1 mile east of town, rises some 30 feet above alluvial plain bordering the "Shat-el-Arab," and is slightly gravelly. Water somewhat scanty from wells, and, though beautifully clear, slightly brackish. Population purely Arab; no Turks visible, one or two indeed who were sent here having been "found dead." Some good houses, especially that of Abdallah-ben-Misheri. The richer men keep hawks, Persian, prices Rs. 50 to Rs. 100, and hawk ubara and hares in the desert west of town.

*Zobeir, 5th December 1881.*

Starting at 3½ A.M., and returning in evening, a round of 20 miles; got ten ubara. Undulating, hard, dry, gravelly soil; occasional patches of camel-thorn of 18 inches to 24 inches high. Only saw one small oasis, twenty wells, and a fort; clear but somewhat brackish water, 12 feet from surface. Worked by donkeys, in the usual Indian fashion; 10 acres pumpkins and onions. Remains of a large canal, 7 miles west of Zobeir, running towards a bold solitary hill to south-west, 6 hours (= 18 or 20 miles) distant, called *Jebel Zenam* (camel-hump), where formerly a town, the capital of Songhera district, existed. The caravan road to Mecca *via* *Nejd* starts from Zobeir, whence it is called *ten days* to *Nejd* or *Riad* on camels, 10 to 12 hours per diem; only two watering-places on road; to Mecca 20 days.

Cold shammal wind; 34° Fahrenheit at sunrise. Arabs perfectly unprejudiced as to eating with Christians, and extremely civil. English popular, partly on account of suppression of piracy in Persian Gulf, and also as supposed champions of Islam, a reputation gained by the Crimea.

Distances all in *hours* = 3½ miles. Occasional raids of Bedouins on cattle, and watchmen are kept in the minars to give alarm. When out hawking, besides weapons of sorts with the twenty horsemen with us, about a dozen breech-loading rifles were carried on riding-camels as an arsenal to fall back on, chiefly Remingtons, one Soper, two Sniders, two .450 breech-loading revolvers. The Remingtons are sent out by French Government, remains of 1871 contracts, and though import of arms is strictly prohibited by Turks and

kept as a Government monopoly by Persians, they are landed at the nominally Persian, but really semi-independent, town of *Mohamera*, where they are being sold with 250 cartridges at 35 krans = Rs. 17 each. Great numbers are said to be now in Arab hands, and, in spite of the attempted interference of the Persian governor of province with their sale, superior orders from Teheran forbade his interference. This unusual proceeding, together with the alleged fact of the present French Company here being maintained *at a loss*, seems noteworthy. Export of horses, also prohibited by Turks, is carried on through *Mohamera*, the intervening *Zaptiehs* being bribed, and the Persian Governor, Sheikh Jubbar, levying a private tax of 50 to 70 krans per horse. There are four or five stables at Zobeir, where these horses are collected preparatory to embarkation. Prices here seem almost as dear as in Bombay.

The old Sheikh Jubbar, who has just died, was very fond of English, and wished an English Company to establish steamers on the *Karun*, which is navigable for about 200 miles. A war of succession is expected betwixt his son Mohamed, now in power, and his younger brother Tura, the popular favourite.

A general hatred of the Turks and desire of our friendship is, I think truthfully expressed.

In Zobeir *surdabs* are found,—which are impossible in Busreh, from proximity of water to surface. In both towns the numerous coffee-houses are somewhat orientally conducted. Chance customers pay  $\frac{1}{4}$  piastre independently of what they drink, and better-known men merely give a present from time to time. In Arab towns like Zobeir, cases are investigated and adjudicated on, indifferently at any private house where the litigants and village Sheikh happen to meet, or in the public coffee-shop. All who wish have their say without the smallest interruption, all seem patiently listened to, and a slip of paper and seals being produced, the decision is there and then written out and done with, and all seem satisfied with this style of justice.

All horses in Arabia and Persia are shod with the round flat plate, six nails very close together in centre of quarters. Bad and clumsy work, but better than it looks. Scarcely ever saw a horse lamed; and toes are so much more pared than done by us that Arabs here seldom stumble. Great carelessness as to feeding and watering horses is evinced. When out for twelve hours no attempt to feed or even water was made.

The present town of Busreh is much contracted in size, and a large belt of gardens now stands betwixt the old fortifications and the present city, untenanted since the great plague of 1832. Town wall ruinous, gates gone, and the few guns on bastions almost dismantled. In spring the plain to the west is covered with water, 2 feet to 3 feet deep for some miles, and crossed by boats. The Turkish *lira*, = 18s. 4d., is supposed to contain 100 piastres, but here = 115. Rate of exchange 1 rupee = 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  piastres, but at Custom House and Quarantine 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  piastres. 1 piastre = 14 kamari = 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  annas. In fact, both here, where there are a few gold coins, very rare, and in Persia, where there are nominally gold *tomauns*, but which are really non-obtainable at any price, the Indian rupee is depreciated quite as much as it is in exchange on England, and a corresponding loss incurred by India; 1 oke = 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. (about). Best mutton, 7 kamari per oke; beef, 6; fowl, 4 piastres; duck, 6 piastres.

The Governor, Muyur Pasha, is now absent at Baghdad, and Effendi Ismail is acting. Commodore Mehmet Bey is chief naval officer, with two gun-boats and some launches. Her Majesty's steamer *Woodlark* now here; one of the Persian squadron in turn being generally up; and is anchored just off our Consulate, which is on right bank, just below the Custom House. Most of the Regulars now absent against the Montafik Arabs, who, it is rumoured, are on the point of submitting, and who very nearly had the best of it. They inhabit the *Jasira* district, betwixt the Tigris and Euphrates, to the south of latitude 33° N., and after being defeated crossed to the desert to west of the Euphrates, where they are beyond pursuit. Izzet Pasha, Commander of the VIth Army Corps, was unable to take the field with more than 2,500 men; one night attack was attempted, some thousand camels being driven in advance by the Arabs, but, as these broke back when the guns opened, the Regulars had an easy victory. Some correspondence with leading merchants of the province was captured, the "shishan" seed alluded to therein being supposed to mean breech-loading cartridges. The Regulars here have extremely neat but ragged dark-blue, yellow-braided Zouave uniform, and the Martini-Peabody, with solid metal cartridge, 40 of which are carried *à la cherkesse* in waist-belt. When going into action two more of these are worn *en bandoulière* across the shoulders, or 120 rounds in all. Rifles dirty but serviceable, and the men, many of whom are Kurds, are of a splendid stamp. They get 6 beshliks per mensem and all rations found, but are sixteen months in arrears. The Zaptiehs here, often Persians or Beluchis, have light-blue, white-braided Zouave dress; still more dilapidated muzzle-loading Enfields and sword-bayonets. They get 1 lb. flour per diem and 16 to 20 beshliks per mensem, but are 32 months in arrears. A beshlik is now worth about 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  annas; so nominal pay is Rs. 7 to Rs. 9.

There are now two river steamers, Lynch and Co's., and six Turkish, the former plying weekly and the latter at most irregular intervals, betwixt Busreh and Baghdad. The *Khalifa* of former Company, the largest on river, is of 350 registered tonnage, and carries 400 tons cargo, counting 14 passengers per ton,

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125 horse-power, paddle, independent engines; with full load draws 5 feet 6 inches, but ordinarily 4 feet, water. Low freeboard and raised hurricane deck. The smallest of Turkish steamers is about 160 tons and steams 3 knots. Coal is used as fuel by the English, and wood chiefly by Turkish, company steamers. Vessels of 15 feet draft can go about 15 miles above *Kurnah* (junction of Tigris and Euphrates), said to be the Garden of Eden. Above this shifting sand-banks, and in the dry season, August-September, vessels continually stick and must be unloaded to float again. Guard of 12 soldiers sent with each since July 1880, when Arabs opened fire on *Khalifa*, driving men from wheel, and, but for gallantry of the captain (Clements), who was severely wounded, the steamer must have gone ashore and been plundered.

From 8th December to 12th December 1881.

FROM BUSREH TO BAGHDAD.

Twenty miles above Busreh dates cease. At *Kurnah*, thirty miles above this point, is *Eyran's* tomb, a wonderful place of Jewish pilgrimage. Here the river is very narrow, barely 100 yards wide, and deep, enormous marshes, extending for 30 miles to the east, and the banks almost flush with water. From here for the next 200 miles nearly the country is a bleak plain, diversified by occasional reed marshes and dotted with reed-walled Arab huts. Lots of buffaloes, sheep, and goats. A fair lot of native craft, chiefly towed by lines from the mast-head, and taking about 25 days to 40 on the up-journey to Baghdad, dependent on a single or double set of trackers. The youth of both sexes pervade the bank all but naked, clamorous for *bucksheesh*. The crew of steamers are Chaldean Christians, called "Mossulces,"—magnificent physique, though clumsy build, and said to be sadly deficient in pluck.

Native craft are reckoned to make but four voyages annually to and from Busreh to Baghdad, the distance by water being about 520 miles. *Amara*, a new-founded station, 1861, now has 1,000 Regulars and a Governor, who was establishing posts betwixt here and *Kurnah* to check the somewhat troublesome Arabs. It was characteristic of the country that he did not possess any map of his district and sent to borrow one of mine.

10th December 1881.

FROM BUSREH TO BAGHDAD.

At about 46° 20' E., 32° 35' N., river approaches to about 35 miles from the chain of mountains forming Persian frontier, called "6 hours" distant. Banks rise to about 15 feet and command steamer. Arabs and some Kurds hereabouts friendly; large herds of horses. Soil good, but cultivation scanty. All Sheikhs said to be much in arrears of revenue through bad harvest. Revenue levied according to extent of land occupied, irrespective of crops. Fresh snow on mountains. River about 250 yards in width but full of sand-banks, and perpetual soundings required till Baghdad. Horses used for ploughing here.

10th December 1881.

KUT, 45° 50' E., 32° 33' N.

11th December 1881.

45° 0' E., 32° 50' N.

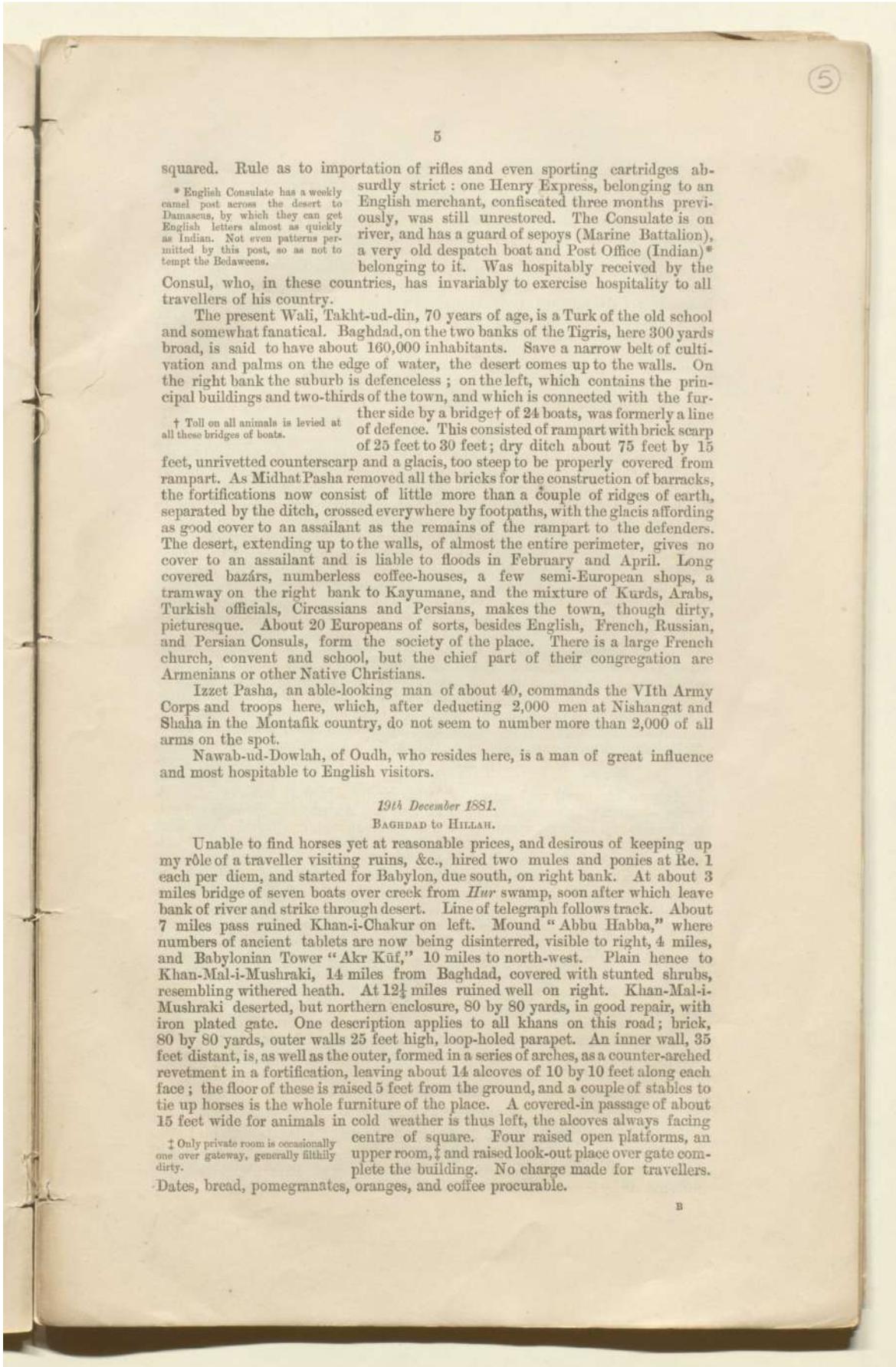
12th December 1881.

BAGHDAD, 44° 25' E., 33° 28' N.

Kuli Khan, chief of the Luri Kurds, nominally a Persian subject, is the most powerful man of these parts. Mr. Wartmann, a Swiss merchant of Baghdad, is said to be a great ally of his and could give introductions. Arrived at "Kut" about 7 P.M. It was close to this where the recent fight with the Montafik tribe had taken place.

*Hamianah*, about noon, curious loop in river; regular "Kadir country," less the large trees. Width 400 yards, but sand-banks plenty. Lots of wild pig visible on banks. Touched ground several times; landed at Consulate, which is a little below the Custom House, along with the mail-bags with my rifles; was intercepted by a Custom House official in a *mashoof*, whom a dozen rupees

be mentioned here  
essentially



squared. Rule as to importation of rifles and even sporting cartridges absurdly strict: one Henry Express, belonging to an English merchant, confiscated three months previously, was still unreturned. The Consulate is on river, and has a guard of sepoy (Marine Battalion), a very old despatch boat and Post Office (Indian)\* belonging to it. Was hospitably received by the

Consul, who, in these countries, has invariably to exercise hospitality to all travellers of his country.

The present Wali, Takht-ud-din, 70 years of age, is a Turk of the old school and somewhat fanatical. Baghdad, on the two banks of the Tigris, here 300 yards broad, is said to have about 160,000 inhabitants. Save a narrow belt of cultivation and palms on the edge of water, the desert comes up to the walls. On the right bank the suburb is defenceless; on the left, which contains the principal buildings and two-thirds of the town, and which is connected with the further side by a bridge† of 24 boats, was formerly a line

of defence. This consisted of rampart with brick scarp of 25 feet to 30 feet; dry ditch about 75 feet by 15 feet, unrevetted counterscarp and a glacis, too steep to be properly covered from rampart. As Midhat Pasha removed all the bricks for the construction of barracks, the fortifications now consist of little more than a couple of ridges of earth, separated by the ditch, crossed everywhere by footpaths, with the glacis affording as good cover to an assailant as the remains of the rampart to the defenders. The desert, extending up to the walls, of almost the entire perimeter, gives no cover to an assailant and is liable to floods in February and April. Long covered bazárs, numberless coffee-houses, a few semi-European shops, a tramway on the right bank to Kayumane, and the mixture of Kurds, Arabs, Turkish officials, Circassians and Persians, makes the town, though dirty, picturesque. About 20 Europeans of sorts, besides English, French, Russian, and Persian Consuls, form the society of the place. There is a large French church, convent and school, but the chief part of their congregation are Armenians or other Native Christians.

Izzet Pasha, an able-looking man of about 40, commands the VIth Army Corps and troops here, which, after deducting 2,000 men at Nishangat and Shaha in the Montafik country, do not seem to number more than 2,000 of all arms on the spot.

Nawab-ud-Dowlah, of Oudh, who resides here, is a man of great influence and most hospitable to English visitors.

19th December 1881.

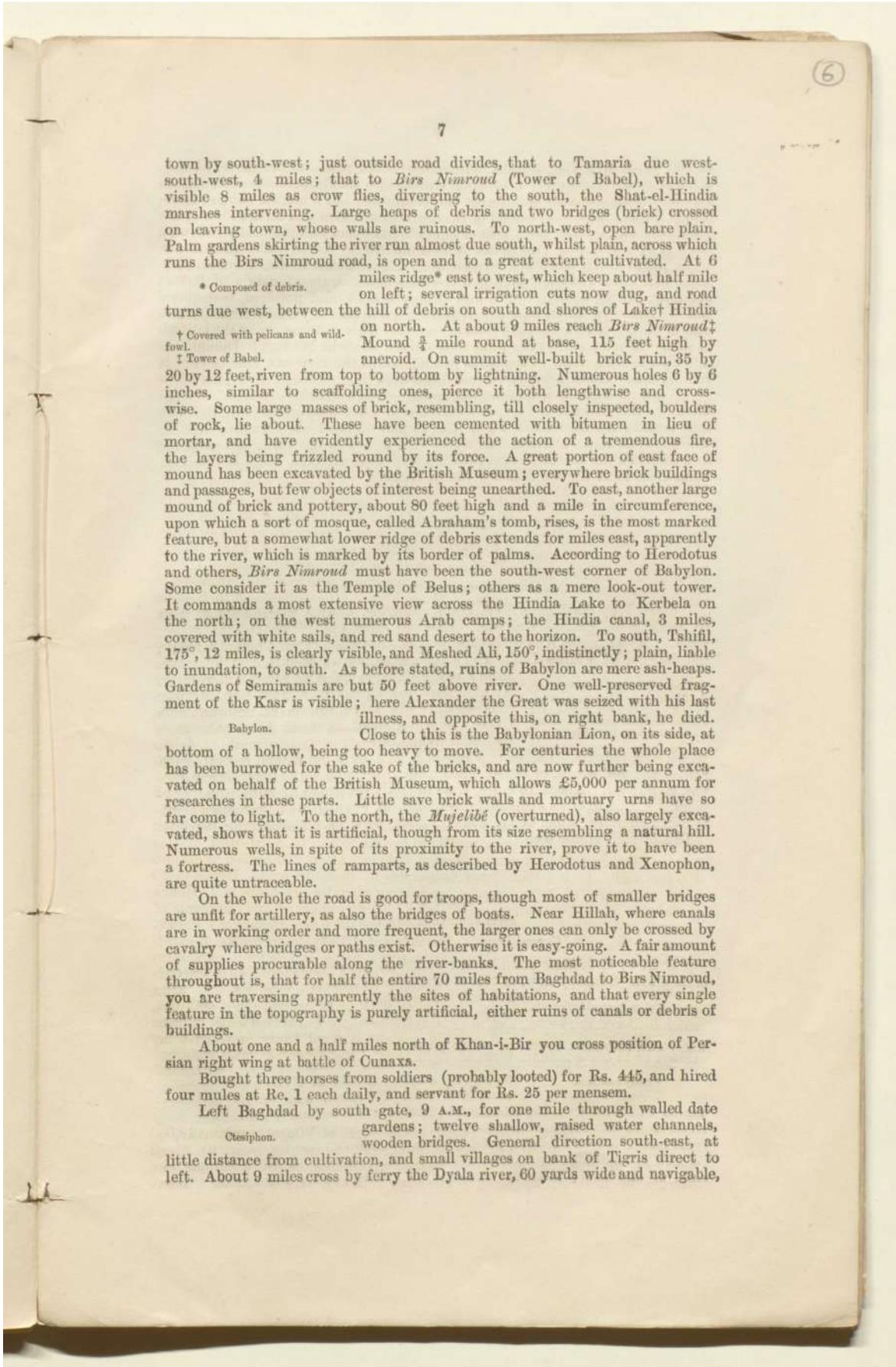
BAGHDAD TO HILLAH.

Unable to find horses yet at reasonable prices, and desirous of keeping up my rôle of a traveller visiting ruins, &c., hired two mules and ponies at Re. 1 each per diem, and started for Babylon, due south, on right bank. At about 3 miles bridge of seven boats over creek from Hur swamp, soon after which leave bank of river and strike through desert. Line of telegraph follows track. About 7 miles pass ruined Khan-i-Chakur on left. Mound "Abbu Habba," where numbers of ancient tablets are now being disinterred, visible to right, 4 miles, and Babylonian Tower "Akr Kuf," 10 miles to north-west. Plain hence to Khan-Mal-i-Mushraki, 14 miles from Baghdad, covered with stunted shrubs, resembling withered heath. At 12½ miles ruined well on right. Khan-Mal-i-Mushraki deserted, but northern enclosure, 80 by 80 yards, in good repair, with iron plated gate. One description applies to all khans on this road; brick, 80 by 80 yards, outer walls 25 feet high, loop-holed parapet. An inner wall, 35 feet distant, is, as well as the outer, formed in a series of arches, as a counter-arched revetment in a fortification, leaving about 14 alcoves of 10 by 10 feet along each face; the floor of these is raised 5 feet from the ground, and a couple of stables to tie up horses is the whole furniture of the place. A covered-in passage of about 15 feet wide for animals in cold weather is thus left, the alcoves always facing

centre of square. Four raised open platforms, an upper room, † and raised look-out place over gate complete the building. No charge made for travellers. Dates, bread, pomegranates, oranges, and coffee procurable.

† Only private room is occasionally one over gateway, generally filthy dirty.





town by south-west; just outside road divides, that to Tamaris due west-south-west, 4 miles; that to *Birs Nimroud* (Tower of Babel), which is visible 8 miles as crow flies, diverging to the south, the *Shat-el-Hindia* marshes intervening. Large heaps of debris and two bridges (brick) crossed on leaving town, whose walls are ruinous. To north-west, open bare plain. Palm gardens skirting the river run almost due south, whilst plain, across which runs the *Birs Nimroud* road, is open and to a great extent cultivated. At 6

miles ridge\* east to west, which keep about half mile on left; several irrigation cuts now dug, and road turns due west, between the hill of debris on south and shores of Lake† *Hindia* on north. At about 9 miles reach *Birs Nimroud*‡ Mound  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile round at base, 115 feet high by aneroid. On summit well-built brick ruin, 35 by 20 by 12 feet, riven from top to bottom by lightning. Numerous holes 6 by 6 inches, similar to scaffolding ones, pierce it both lengthwise and cross-wise. Some large masses of brick, resembling, till closely inspected, boulders of rock, lie about. These have been cemented with bitumen in lieu of mortar, and have evidently experienced the action of a tremendous fire, the layers being frizzled round by its force. A great portion of east face of mound has been excavated by the British Museum; everywhere brick buildings and passages, but few objects of interest being unearthed. To east, another large mound of brick and pottery, about 80 feet high and a mile in circumference, upon which a sort of mosque, called Abraham's tomb, rises, is the most marked feature, but a somewhat lower ridge of debris extends for miles east, apparently to the river, which is marked by its border of palms. According to Herodotus and others, *Birs Nimroud* must have been the south-west corner of Babylon. Some consider it as the Temple of Belus; others as a mere look-out tower. It commands a most extensive view across the *Hindia* Lake to *Kerbela* on the north; on the west numerous Arab camps; the *Hindia* canal, 3 miles, covered with white sails, and red sand desert to the horizon. To south, *Tshifil*, 175, 12 miles, is clearly visible, and *Mesheh Ali*, 150, indistinctly; plain, liable to inundation, to south. As before stated, ruins of Babylon are mere ash-heaps. Gardens of *Semiramis* are but 50 feet above river. One well-preserved fragment of the *Kasr* is visible; here Alexander the Great was seized with his last illness, and opposite this, on right bank, he died.

Close to this is the *Babylonian Lion*, on its side, at bottom of a hollow, being too heavy to move. For centuries the whole place has been burrowed for the sake of the bricks, and are now further being excavated on behalf of the British Museum, which allows £5,000 per annum for researches in these parts. Little save brick walls and mortuary urns have so far come to light. To the north, the *Mujelibe* (overturned), also largely excavated, shows that it is artificial, though from its size resembling a natural hill. Numerous wells, in spite of its proximity to the river, prove it to have been a fortress. The lines of ramparts, as described by Herodotus and Xenophon, are quite untraceable.

On the whole the road is good for troops, though most of smaller bridges are unfit for artillery, as also the bridges of boats. Near *Hillah*, where canals are in working order and more frequent, the larger ones can only be crossed by cavalry where bridges or paths exist. Otherwise it is easy-going. A fair amount of supplies procurable along the river-banks. The most noticeable feature throughout is, that for half the entire 70 miles from *Baghdad* to *Birs Nimroud*, you are traversing apparently the sites of habitations, and that every single feature in the topography is purely artificial, either ruins of canals or debris of buildings.

About one and a half miles north of *Khan-i-Bir* you cross position of Persian right wing at battle of *Cunaxa*.

Bought three horses from soldiers (probably looted) for Rs. 445, and hired four mules at Re. 1 each daily, and servant for Rs. 25 per mensem.

Left *Baghdad* by south gate, 9 A.M., for one mile through walled date gardens; twelve shallow, raised water channels, wooden bridges. General direction south-east, at little distance from cultivation, and small villages on bank of *Tigris* direct to left. About 9 miles cross by ferry the *Dyala* river, 60 yards wide and navigable,

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at 400 yards from its junction with Tigris. Fare half kran per horse. Tak-i-Khusm clearly visible 160°; thence to Ctesiphon barren scrub jungle. Large fort-like mounds 3 miles east. Just before reaching Ctesiphon hit bank of river, which forms a wide loop enclosing it, and the neck of which shows lines of old fortifications. Quarter mile from arch is the Sulieman Pâk Musjid, Mahomed's barber, by which name the place is best known by the Arabs. Arch about 85 by 130 feet high, and hall 170 feet long. Ruined mounds all about, but save one tomb half mile to south-west, and a powder factory on river, no other buildings standing. Large herds of camels and sheep about, and, judging from armaments and vigilance of their watchers, require a good deal of looking after. Many marks of pig and perfect pig-sticking ground here. Ruins of Seluccia, mere mound; to west and north-west across river, on right bank, left being about 1,000 yards from arch. Passengers can be landed, walk across neck and visit arch in time steamer takes to go round the loop.

Rather a scene here on 28th December—Shah's birthday—when all officials attend in full uniform at Persian Consulate to offer congratulations, the Vali only sending his dragoman, whom the Persian Consul most politely said he was happy to see as a friend, but whose visit in lieu of the Vali's he considered as a slight on his master, consequence being that all civil officials absented themselves from the big dinner given in evening.

1st January 1882.

BAGHDAD TO JEDIDAH.

9-30 A.M. to 3-45 P.M.

General Direction—north, 18 miles.

Started by north gate. Telegraph alongside, double wire. Date gardens on bank river gradually recede. About 3½ miles cultivation ceases; desert, goats. At 11 miles Khan-i-Budan, post of Zaptiehs; camel-thorn, 12 miles; last date garden 4 miles left. To 13 miles cross few water-cuts, marshy to left.

A day or two before my departure the Persian Consul-General told me he had been officially informed the Eastern Samarah route was unsafe for travellers within two days of city.

Ruin Banat-el-Hussen and Arab camp east, on right. At 14 miles Kila-i-Tinai, fort, and two large camps 2 miles west, two or three squads of Bedoins, with lances, prowling about. After 15 miles, water-cuts and embankments, east, against floods of Tigris, which soon appears. Village and ruined arch 1 mile, on right; several small ruined villages about, or rather mud walls, over which the black camel-hair roof is pitched. About 16 miles, close to Tigris (left bank), artificial embankment. About 18 miles Jedidah in palm-groves, about 1 mile long from south to north on river, khan at south end. Road easy for all arms; few supplies. Lots of sand-grouse seen.

2nd January 1882.

6-50 A.M. to 12-15 P.M.

From JEDIDAH TO ZEDAIDAH.

General Direction—north by east, 16 miles.

Start by river bank and through walled gardens, emerge about 1 mile and cross plain. Swampy now, as this is season for irrigation. Lots of geese, duck, and snipe everywhere.\* Ploughing going on. At other seasons road probably good, but wherever water is met ground is regular bog for horses. At 2 miles boat-bridge over water-cut, between a couple of which proceed for few hundred yards, when cross No. 2, and about 3 miles walled gardens and lane. Village of *Dokillai Dudani* on left.† Emerge on bank of Tigris about 3½ miles, cross and skirt by canal, and jungle‡ fringing Tigris, which makes a big elbow here; bear to north for nearly a mile, and then strike north-east across cultivated plain. Numerous palm groves show villages (*vide* map). About 11 miles, palm gardens of *Banat Hussein*, pass empty khan on left, brick bridge over canal about 13 miles, about 15 miles gardens on skirt of Zedaidah; khan at north-east of village, about 100 houses, hidden

\* Good place for sport hereabouts.

† Ferry boat here.

‡ Tamarisk.

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in trees; flat bare plain to east and north. Most of ground in to-day's march cultivated, and supplies should be abundant, and various other lines of road available. But for irrigation, no difficulty.

3rd January 1882.

FROM 4 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

FROM ZEDAIDAH TO DELI ABBAS.

General Direction—north-east, 33 miles.

Hoar frost at night. Devious road on account of irrigation for 3 miles. Cross two large canals close together, brick bridges, and fortified post of Zaptiehs. Villages *Issandria* and *Jengem Shayan* to north-east, 3 miles; large village *Dalthama* to south-east. At 4 miles direct road to Kerkuk diverges; no supplies; a few miles desert, and about 10 miles cultivation, again undulating ground with camel-thorn; about 16 miles ruined fort of Tamila and better cultivation. One or two boggy places on road; 19 miles bank of deep stream, 20 yards wide, *Gobunga*, really a branch of Dyala. Hence road skirts stream closely to *Deli Abbas*, passing at 23 miles cemetery and village of *Mahomed Seraya* on right bank, 25 miles; *Sarayo* on left bank, gardens for half mile, and *Sigari* on left bank. Hence barren ground, camel-thorn, numerous deep water-cuts with very narrow bridges. Several Arab camps. Lots of sheep. Twenty-eight miles, *Imam Syed Mahomed*; river bends and road turns due east; 29 miles, *Imam Argabi*. Small white dome. Two camps of Abu Mamal and Abuorah Arabs; 33 miles, *Deli Abbas*, 70 houses, post of Zaptiehs, two-arched brick bridge, damaged, but passable for field guns; khan dirty.

Low range of hills to east, and no signs of habitations there or to north; several palm-groves to south. River here 30 yards wide. A second road *via* Bakuba to Baghdad exists, and other tracks could doubtless be found through intermediate country, which seems fertile and full of supplies, though the water-cuts offer certain difficulties to troops marching. Lots of wildfowl and sand-grouse along road. The main post road to Anatolia *via* Mosul and Diarbekir passes by this line, as does the telegraph. Mails travel at a walk with escort of Zaptiehs. Post horses can be hired, and travellers accompany the mails, about 50 or 60 miles a day. No traveller is supposed to move without a *boyaruldy*, or passport, and one or more Zaptiehs attached to him, for whom he is supposed to provide food and give 1 kran each a day.

4th January 1882.

6-15 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

DELI ABBAS TO KARA TEPE.

General Direction—north.

Slight frost, daylight at 6-30. After few fields desert, with marshes to west, and range of hills 4 miles east; 6 miles, enter hills, and find sandstone rock; 8 miles, hills close in on road. At 9 miles turn corner on to *Suenna*; post of Zaptiehs fortified. From *Deli Abbas* on to the Zab on north and Persian frontier on east, the roads are unsafe, and country almost deserted on account of Hamawand and Jaf marauders. Here the Mosul Vilayat begins. Two Zaptiehs accompanied me from this, who scouted very well. From here to 14 miles road winds through low undulating spurs of the Narin range, parallel to its crest till the last  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, when it turns to the right (east), and ascends to summit, 600 feet above sea. Near this the telegraph, which had been left about 4 hours before *Deli Abbas*, again joins into line of road. Range not rocky, though some little sandstone shows itself, and chiefly water-worn gravel. On a very small scale this resembles the Subabund Pass on its east face. Descent easy; guns might cross with very little labour. Sixteen miles regain plain, whence *Kara Tepe*, 10 miles north, is visible. A similar parallel range closes the view about 10 miles east, a few snow-peaks showing faintly beyond; the whole valley apparently deserted. This tract of country has an evil repute, and is greatly feared by travellers. Twenty-one miles cross *Narrin* river by brick bridge, five arches, near which is walled enclosure and 20 houses. Bed of

river, which flows south, is 25 feet deep, but had little water. Thence across a flat, open, partially cultivated and very muddy plain to *Kara Tepe*, 28 miles. About 100 houses, dilapidated khan, and Yuzbashi with 40 Zaptiehs.

KARA TEPE, 44° 55' E., 34° 25' N.

Abdur Rahman Aziz, Aga, the Yuzbashi, insisting on spending the evening with me, described state of affairs as lamentable. Had now 80 Zaptiehs to keep open road, collect taxes, &c., from Deli Abbas to Kifri, where before the 1877 war they had 1,000. His men without pay for four years; no inducements to men to risk themselves on duty; no inducement for villagers to make one penny more than needful for existence; the *Hamawands* masters of whole country, and road from Kifri to Sulimania closed even for Zaptiehs.

The *Hamawand* Kurds inhabiting district about Tschemschemel, in the triangle between Kerkuk, Kifri, and Sulimania, though only numbering about 1,000 horsemen, are noted and daring marauders, and now armed with Martinis, well mounted and recruited by all the deserters, &c., of country, hold the whole district in terror. About 13 years since they were put down *à la Turc* by Takht-ud-din, the prisoners being shod with red-hot horse-shoes. They are subdivided into following sections, dwelling at Bazian, Kara Hassan, Dirhand, and Tschemschemel: (1) *Hamawands*; *Sheikhs*—Taki-bin-kadr, Joamir, and Hamad-bin-Mama Suliman; (2) *Setawasar*; *Sheikhs*—Bairam-bin-obin and brother; (3) *Rashmad*; *Sheikhs*—Kaka Saka and Salim; (4) *Sufamad*; *Sheikh*—Amid-bin-kala Paya. Up to 1879 they were quiet then, partly (it is said) from intrigues of the Pasha to raise an excuse for uniting the Baghdad and Mosul Vilayats, partly to supposed orders of Sheikh Obeidallah. They began to move. Camped for long at Slithan, Persian territory, plundering from Kasr to Karmanshah. Shahraban was blockaded for six days, and Serpit, 8 hours from it, plundered last year. In July 1880 they entered Zohab, also plundered near Kerkuk and Shergkhan (Persian territory); twice robbed Baghdad and Kermanshah caravans, and others at Salahia, Altyn Kopru, and Kafar. In June 1881 camped on Diala in Persian territory, were intercepted by troops from Baghdad and Sulimania (after being defeated by Persians at Beni Kudra) at Gulamber. Hard pressed by the Sulimania detachment. Turkish ammunition ran short, and, as their reserve boxes were found filled with stones (sold by their colonel), result was, defeat of the Regulars. Shortly after they made terms; Sheikh Takih Kadir, Joamir, &c. *Terms*—(1), Surrender breech-loading arms; (2) restoration of property of Postal Department plundered; (3) peaceful settlement on lands assigned. £2,000 in gold had been carried off from the post, a Yuzbashi and 10 Zaptiehs, out of an escort of 50, having on one occasion fallen. The tribe is but of 300 families; not a man was punished.

For two years this one tribe kept two Turkish and one Persian province in alarm, undoubtedly from collusion with Pasha of district. Mahomed Pasha of Sulimania, now Governor of Kerbela, offered with his local influence to stamp out the tribe in two months if allowed, but, thanks to Turkish jealousy, was not permitted to try. Owing to complaints of breach of faith on part of Turks, a caravan was looted by the *Hamawands* in October last near Kerkuk, and roads again declared unsafe. In 1877 all these tribes got hold of Martinis, either as auxiliaries of, or deserters from, the Turkish army, and what between recapping old cases, cartridges smuggled in by merchants, and chiefly from sale from

Government magazines, cartridges are always forthcoming. In the loot of Bayazid above 30,000 stand of arms were said to be taken by Kurds. Besides Martinis there is a sprinkling of Winchesters, and, in addition to those held by the *Hamawands*, the *Jafs*, a nominally Kurd, but apparently Arab, tribe, who turned out 35,000 horse, have 2,000 to 3,000 Martinis; 20 or 30 are to be seen in the retinues of all petty chiefs, and even muleteers have often Sniders. All above are American and excellently made.\* It is illegal to carry weapons of precision, but the law only enforces this on the well-behaved traders, and does not attempt to interfere with the *mauvaises sujets*.

Arms.

\* The English Martini cartridge has a larger rim than the solid brass American one, and ammunition is not interchangeable. In the event of operations in that district against these tribes, I would suggest a few thousand American pattern cartridges charged with dynamite in lieu of powder being sold to them; our troops could not use them, and their rifles would speedily be disabled.

5th January 1882.

6-30 A.M. to 1-15 P.M.

KARA TEPE to KIFRI.

General Direction—north, 22 miles.

Skirt vineyards in starting, the first seen; clear, bright, running water rills. Undulating, gravelly downs; lovely grazing ground; lots of sheep at one camp. The Yuzbashi with a miscellaneous pack of 25 Zaptiehs escorted me. These were armed with Martinis and Winchesters. About 5 miles after descending and crossing hollow, whence a road diverges half left to Kerkuk, cross ridge about 150 feet high, and descend to *Chiman* "Kopri," which cross by brick bridge, two arches; stream 18 yards wide, muddy, reedy and sluggish; flows west. 1½ miles further on cross the Tschitchand. Brick bridge, three arches, almost dry; bank 15 feet and steep; three miles further, three Arab villages right and left of road. Zerdan, and dry shingly bed of Kifri stream, 200 yards wide, and village of Timshan, with white imam, at foot of hills to right; 15 miles gradual ascent for 2 miles of down-like hill, flattish top. At 20 miles crest, whence Kifri is visible two miles further, in a valley, with a few vineyards and gardens around, backed on the north by a picturesque range of white quartz, 350 feet high. Cross level and partially cultivated plain to town.

*Kifri*, 3,000 houses, partially ruinous walls, fair covered bazar, several bright clear mountain streams through it; one battalion of regulars; is altogether rather a pretty and moderately clean town for this part of the world. Called on the Kaimakam (Civil Governor) in evening, name Abdul Aziz, a most favourable specimen of a Turk; speaks a little Persian. Put up at Mr. Stanno's agent, from whom I had letters for Sulimania, Rowanduz and Choi Sandjak, and had regular levee in evening. This department, *Mamuli Sithay*, or "six contributions," tobacco, salt, &c., pledged by the Porte to Galatea bankers, is watched by Mr. Stanno on behalf of the mortgagees. My host, by name Mahomed Effendi, extremely civil, but, after the fashion of the country, I had to put up in his best room, where I had to hold a levee of all his friends till late in the evening, and had my first experience of dinner *à la Turc*, squatted on your heels, and eating with fingers. Turkish hospitality hereabout is always the same. You are installed in the best apartment, a sort of durbar-room with low divan and cushions at one end, and Kurdish rugs down centre. Coffee excellent, but without sugar or milk, is handed round, almost as soon as you alight; and, by way of doing you honour, your host, his relations and friends, swarm in and squat, smoking cigarettes, around the apartment, till you give a hint you want to sleep. The dinners also closely resemble each other. Mutton broth, kabobs, fried fish, pillao, pease pudding, some kinds of sprouts (wild), sweets, and two huge bowls of sherbet and sour milk, which you wash down the repast with, from two large wooden ladles. Country-bread somewhat resembling coarse chupatties, though in Kurdistan generally much finer and thinner, much resembling Scotch "scones." A Chaosh of Regulars, amongst others, attended the levee. A most smart soldiery man, speaks Persian, says he and his comrade are 55 months in arrear of pay; rations generally deficient, and uniform, till quite recently, in rags. He and an officer of his regiment asked me, apparently in earnest, if I would not enlist them for the Indian army.\*

\* Though his term of service had 4 years expired, he was still refused his discharge. (*Tezkire*.)

6th January 1882.

Walked up Char Sowar Hill, 200 feet above town, in evening, had a talk with two friendly Syeds I met there, one of whom, having been to Muscat, was regarded as a great traveller. They belong to Sulimania, but say the road thither, which leads over a succession of sharp, rugged hills, backed by the Kara Dag range, is both bad and unused, as well from physical obstacles as from the predatory nature of the inhabitants, Jafs and Hamawands. Good view of town, road back the Doazdeh Imam to south-east and Jebel Kurra range, 12 or 15 miles south-west. Beautiful clear streams of water run through the bazars. Turkish soldiers chiefly spend their time in playing a sort of rounders and backgammon; several good caravan-serais in town.

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7th January 1882.

6-15 A.M. to 2-15 P.M.

From KIFRI TO TUZCHURMATU.

General Direction—west by north, 24 miles.

Started 6-20, with Salar Iffendi and his two followers, armed with Winchesters, five Zaptiehs, similarly armed, and joined on to a caravan of donkeys, even the drivers of which had Snider Springfields. For 8 miles road runs parallel to, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from, foot of low quartz range, 400 to 500 feet, lovely grass turf-like

\* In May Mr. Melville, an artist travelling from Baghdad to Kerkuk, was completely stripped by the Hamawands at this place. The Wali of Baghdad had then sworn their extermination, and they were being pursued by Regulars and Jat auxiliaries.

ground; large, open plain to left, bounded by Jebel Kurra, 12 or 15 miles off. Plain entirely deserted on account of Hamawand raids. At 8 miles cross the Chorassai, in gorge\* of which we saw a few Hamawands, but we were in too great force to be attacked, about 25 rifles in all. Up to 17 miles neither flocks nor cultivation, and road as before. Thence cultivation to left, where telegraph wire again joins line road, and bear more to north about 23 miles, reaching banks of Tuzchurmatu chai,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide; gravelly bed, but little water, most being diverted for agriculture. Thence, after crossing three water-cuts, enter Tuzchurmatu at 24 miles. Quartz range still continues on north-east; Multazat Ali, about 900 feet, over road just above village, being the most noticeable peak therein. Plain to left well cultivated, and a long line of water-mills visible. Salt mine said to exist near peak above mentioned. Taodia, small conical hill, with 200 houses, and reputed mineral springs, 6 miles to south-west. One branch of telegraph runs thither. The whole march easy for all arms, but water scarce.

Tuzchurmatu, 44° 40' E., 34° 53' N. Splendid grass land up to Jebel Hamrim range, about 15 miles westwards, indistinct from mirage.

A second wire runs up gorge of river. One small covered bazar; 300 houses, 100 regulars, and 30 Zaptiehs. Put up in house of villager. Olives here. Getting out of the region of palms, only a few scraggy ones now seen.

8th January 1882.

6-15 A.M. to 1-15 P.M.

From TUZCHURMATU TO TAOK.

General Direction—north by west, 21 miles.

Marched 6-20. Same party as yesterday. Skirt a few gardens to left and for first 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles a little cultivation. About 3 miles two villages, Ab-bushabha 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles on left. About 5 miles quartz range on right gradually subsides into low undulations, flocks of sheep, and approaches road

† Behind these Paima Godran, a snow peak over Sulimania, visible.

at nulla called Kimtizza. The Salahi and Ghilleh† ranges parallel, about 10 miles to right; undulating grass downs intervening. On left open plain. Abu Abed Arabs up to the Jebel Hamrim and further north. Maksul ranges, through which flows the Tigris. Several fort-like mounds, and village Ablakalas on plain, but all indistinct from mirage. About 8 miles Karez and Dughed Koorutschai. For next 8 or 9 miles ground more undulating, cross numerous nullas running west; villages Zau, Kerkuk, Istagar, and fort-like mound 4 miles west, and an Arab camp to right. To this side villages of Shoran, Kurkanum, and Ach Mirshed and Kir Gudroon lie in low hills, the chief peaks of which are Jebel Kurra and Nahsool. At 19 miles cross water-cut, mill, and reach dry bed almost of Taokschai, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile wide, gravel. Two ranges of quartz of about 500 feet called Shoramat, running north-west, are about 3 miles to west of road here,

Taok, 44° 27' E., 35° 6' N.

grass downs intervening. At 21 miles Taok, 200 houses, 40 Zaptiehs. Site of old Mussulman town. Only remains, a well-built brick minar, 45 feet, on south of village. Imam Yein Abdur on a picturesque rock, 1 mile west, where river cuts through quartz rocks, and villages of Sassil and Jungipa, 3 miles west. Houses loopholed. A fortnight previously 400 Hamawand horse had made a swoop on village, but after a little firing and having two of their number hit, they departed. Put up with a shepherd, good fellow, but dogs a nuisance. Declared the Wali of Kerkuk a regular tyrant, and he, as well as most men hereabout, positively asserted that the Hamawands pay one-third of their loot to him. A fair lot of cultivation to north-west of village; country here perfectly bare and treeless.

9th January 1882.

6-15 A. M. to 2-30 P. M.

From TAOK to KERKUK.

General Direction— { north by west { (2-3rd) } , 25 miles.  
{ north by east { (1-3rd) } }

Marched 6-20; Imam Hama 1 mile. Open cultivated plain west, hills right, 1½ miles. Village Teli Mustafa left, 5 miles, small dry stream, Setaldurra. About 7 miles, Mutara deserted village, destroyed by Hamawands, 1 mile on right foot of low Tuppa range. Ruined fort Talmagha, Shumetza, Arab village, and Bolden, 3 or 4 miles left. At 8 miles Dagatchai, dry; thence to 12 miles succession of dry stream-beds, Durrundurra, Sakaltchai, Satubruchai; road to Karali, undulating downs and sheep on right; open, and villages Buschir and Shamsha, 4 or 5 miles on left, horizon bounded by high range, 25 miles off. About 17 miles, Tasya Kurmatuchai, shallow ford, village of same name, 100 houses on right bank, flows south-west, and artificial mound strewn with debris. Battkauf immediately west of ford and overhanging it. Road here bears towards east, and after half mile through vineyards, crossing three water-cuts, leads over undulating downs, soon after entering which Kerkuk is visible. Seven miles north-west is village of Chadukuli, 1½ miles left. About 20 miles the almost dry bed of Kerkukchai. Passed down mail with a

Post.

Yuzbashi and ten Zaptiehs as escort. Post-horses are established along this road, at from 15 to 25 miles intervals, and can, with a firman, be hired from the contractor, and a traveller ride through with mails. Pace slow, animals wretched. Time from Baghdad to Mosul 14 ordinary marches, four days. Seldom travel by night or out of a walk. Met detachment of Turkish infantry on mules marching against Hamawands, followed later by a squadron of cavalry. It is noticeable that the authorities have had to discard the Winchester, and give latter Martinis to put them on an equality with the Kurdish tribes. About 22 miles a little cultivation, then skirt dry river-bed; ¾ miles of shingle; no banks to speak of. Village of Tissin and vineyards left, and wide valley, Kirzil, to right, with numerous Turk and Kurdish villages and plenty of water from springs therein. This is season for the rains, and considerable apprehension was expressed at the small amount that had yet fallen.

Picturesque town. Old fort on steep earth; isolated hill rises from left bank,\* below which a white-washed brick bridge of twelve arches joins it, with the serai and Kazi's office, and suburb of Korja on right bank. It is seat of the Mosul vilayat, and said to contain 10,000 houses—at a guess I should say little more than one-half; 15 baths, numerous coffee-houses. Mehmet Ali is Wali and Commander-in-Chief, and Humdi Bey the Mutaserrif. One battalion infantry, one regiment cavalry, and one battery of artillery are quartered here. Was put up by Kadr Effendi, father of my fellow-traveller, Salar Effendi, one of notables of the place. I have the comfort of a room to myself in one of his retainer's houses, a paved, arched, vault-like apartment, but with the inestimable advantage of privacy.

\* The Mutaserrif told me that, by most positive local tradition, the north corner of fort was the scene of Daniel's lions' den. It is now built over, and enclosed in the court-yard of one officer's quarter.

One of the Zaptiehs had brought on a murderer here with his hands handcuffed between a couple of blocks of wood nailed together. They had travelled in most friendly style, smoking together, and the prisoner often carrying his guardian's rifle.

In evening dined with Kadr Effendi à la Turc, sitting on heels and using fingers.

10th January 1882.

Cloudy; put on uniform, and called at the serai on the Wali. Humdi Bey, one of the Midhat Pasha school, who speaks French beautifully, acted as interpreter. Was received courteously, but with extreme suspicion, cross-questioned, and asked for my papers. Luckily an old passport with the Turkish visa on it seemed to reassure them, and I was asked to dine by the Wali, which I did at sunset, the quartette being completed by Edhem Pasha, Commandant of Sulimania, and the Mutaserrif. Very good dinner, semi-Turc; table, chairs, plates and forks, but fed out of a common dish; all en grande tenue. Was sent back under a grand procession of Zaptiehs and lanterns. Subsequent

D

night, dining with Dr. Humpfell, noticed that the two orderlies who escorted me back, loaded their Martinis, and halted and challenged every man encountered, which spoke volumes for the state of place. The Wali, who is both Civil and Military Governor, gets equivalent to Rs. 2,000 per mensem, and has Mosul, Kerkuk, and Sulimania districts under him. He starts in a few days for his annual tour through district, for expenses of which he gets 300 lira = Rs. 3,000. The Mutaserrif gets Rs. 1,000. There are three others in the vilayat—Sulimania, Mosul, Rowanduz.

11th January 1882.

KERKUK.

An Austrian, Dr. Humpfell, under a five years' contract, is here and called. Speaks French well; invited me to his quarters in fort, where he lived with the Surgeon-General, a Greek, Yoakim Bey, who also speaks French. The civil doctor of town, Dr. Ban, is also Greek-German, M. A. Taksim Bey. Dr. Humpfell tells me he gets 40 lira a month, paid punctually in gold.

Fahim Khan taken ill with fever. My muleteers struck work, funkled leaving beaten track.

The Mutaserrif and Mahomet Beg, Commander of Zaptiehs, who spoke much of General Campbell, called on me. The former spoke very bitterly of the so-called reforms England tries to force on Turkey, as utterly unsuited to her state of progress and customs. As he says, England only sees the outside of house, and is ignorant of what passes within; that she is utterly at sea as to the real necessities of the country; forgets that one must walk before he can run, and says that there are plenty of educated men in Turkey who know perfectly what is needed, but lack the power to carry out their views; and that if England really wishes to reform Turkey it is by according complete parliamentary and constitutional protection, and making it independent of the Sultan. Up to a few years since the English were universally popular, but thanks to the Russian war we are no longer so. That a very strong party were even in favour of siding completely with Russia, since they could no longer resist her successfully.

12th January 1882.

Both my host and Dr. Humpfell draw a lamentable picture of the lawlessness, misery, and discontent of the country. The Turks regarded as aliens, bitterly detested, and only living on their prestige. Officials scrambling to enrich themselves before an inevitable smash takes place; troops unpaid, half-fed, badly clothed, and discontented; many who had been prisoners of war openly contrasting their good treatment, food, and even pay, received as a matter of policy in Russia, with their present condition, and it is doubtful if they would care to resist a Russian advance.

They are now well turned out in their neat Zouave dress, but three months since were said to be a shoeless mob. Humpfell, with whom I breakfasted, had a very good collection of coins, &c.,—Demetrius, Alexander, 1 Polish, 1 Hamburg, &c. Had sent to Vienna 2,500 recently. He mentions Sulimania as a good district for curios, and an early Christian church of 5th century, near Choi Sandjak, as worth seeing. He tells me I am first European he has seen for two years, and that my appearance has caused considerable excitement in the place, many asking my host "what hopes of an English annexation?" The universal cry of rich and poor is when are the English, Russians,—any one, no matter who,—coming to deliver us from the Turks. As he says, things must be in a pretty state when even *une peuple sâle et fanatique* ask for Christian intervention. Superior officers take bribes, sell arms, accoutrements, openly. One staff officer sent to report on the *river* from Baghdad to Mosul recently had appeared here, sold 40 sets of uniform, and four days after departed by road to Mosul, as he said he had once slapped a major, who took Rs. 2 to square the matter. Military discipline is most lax. Officers fear to enforce it, though by the code a man may suffer death for loss of his arms.

Army.

When, as often happens, a man sells and asserts

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he has lost his rifle, he gets off with 80 days' imprisonment or 20 blows of the stick. As they get Rs. 25 or Rs. 30, and are utterly without pay, this is no deterrent. Five or six desert weekly to the Hamawands, &c. One colonel married to a Hamawand wife, who, instead of attacking, handed over 300 stand of arms to the Hamawands last year, was declared not guilty by court-martial. Conscription is for three years, but often authorities refuse them "teskire" or certificate at end of the time, and keep them longer.

They are supposed to get three medjidies, Rs. 6 a month, one winter and one summer suit a year. Rations excellent, if issued in full, and I may mention that ration bread is far better than ours. Even in Baghdad English people buy theirs as better than elsewhere procurable. Rations per mensem are :—

3 okes rice.	6 okes meat.	23 okes bread.
$\frac{1}{2}$ oke butter.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oke onions.	17 " wood.
30 drs. soap.	30 drs. petroleum.	30 drs. candles.

*Forage ration.*

90 okes barley per mensem, and 120 okes straw per mensem.

Grades are :—

Nufur=Private.  
Onbashi=Commander of 10=Corporal.  
Bulukemem=Pay Sergeant.  
Chaosh=Sergeant.  
Bas Chaosh=Sergeant-Major.  
Gya Tepe=Writer of Battalion, ranks with Captain.

They have also—

Surkas=Bheesties.  
One Hakim or Docteur per battalion.  
One Jariab or Surgeon "  
One Ejzaji or Apothecary "

*Commissioned ranks.*

Enel and Essain Mullazim=2nd and 1st Lieutenant, draw 1 ration.  
Yuzbashi=Captain, draws . . . 2 rations.  
Kulassi=1st Captain, draws . . . 4 " 1 horse.  
Bimbashi=Major, draws . . . 5 " 2 horses.  
Kaimakam=Lieutenant-Colonel, draws 5 " 3 "  
Mir Aly=Colonel, draws . . . 6 " 2 "  
Sibhar=Brigadier-General }  
Ferik=Major-General } help themselves.  
Mushir=Marshal . . . }

Since the war, regiments are organized *à la Russe*. One regiment equals four battalions, each of 4 companies, each of 15 Kaimehs, 100 men per company on peace and 200 on war footing. The Martini has now superseded the Winchester for the cavalry, the latter being relegated to the hands of the Zaptiehs. Cartridges, solid brass and better than ours, are carried in belts *en bandoulière*, each containing 40. One belt is habitually worn round waist, and in action two more crosswise over the shoulders, thus giving 120 rounds.

13th January 1882.

Fahim Khan, who had an attack of choleraic fever, was quite unable to move, and being further bothered by the strike of muleteers still detained. Baghdad ones fear the mountains, and local ones demand Rs. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  each per diem, with Rs. 100 advance, and brought awful sore-backed brutes *pardessus le marché*. At last got four for Rs. 40 to Rowanduz. The Mutaserrif and all others spoken with having so pointedly recommended the superior facility and safety of the Rowanduz over the Sulimania route, that in default of an excuse I felt bound to adopt it.

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14th January 1882.

6-30 A.M. to 3-30 P.M.

From KERKUK to ALTYN KOPRU.

General Direction—north-west, 27 miles.

Marched 6-30 A.M. A Mullazim and 6 Zaptiehs told off to accompany, *i e.*, spy on me. mounted on wiry but emaciated ponies, and armed with Winchesters. Passed through suburb of Korja, 2½ miles, low range close to road on right; 3½ miles, *naphtha springs*, slightly worked. About 4½ miles bear more north, and up to about 7½ miles through very broken country, formed by numerous low parallel ridges running west by north, about 8 miles crossing Duranee range; easy gravel slopes, ascent of about 200 feet, crest 1,580 feet by aneroid: thence descend into open, wide, cultivated and grassy plain, with numerous small Kurd villages, "kullun," of 30 to 50 houses and flocks of sheep, and about 1½ miles from the foot bear more to the north-west. This plain, some 15 or 20 miles wide, bordered by the Sunn Reg range to north-east, is bare and treeless, but the more numerous signs of cultivation, defenceless character of villages, and comparatively unarmed state of population, seem indicative of a more settled condition of things. For 10 miles pass through a good deal of cultivation; many shallow irrigation-cuts; keep along parallel to left bank of the Gerranga Chaismall stream, and pass numerous small villages, chiefly on right of road,—Goeldurra, Ketwall, Patupa, Kultun, &c. Road gradually recedes from the Duranee range, which bears to west. About 21 miles get on low, stony downs; range to north-east, 15 to 18 miles distant; rainy day; and at 27 miles, Altyn Kopru, an island of lesser Zab, with two ridiculously high pointed bridges over it. Zab, hereabout 40 yards broad; deep strong current cuts through conglomerate rock.\* Put up by head man in room over archway; 400 houses, a few Zaptiehs, and Turkish telegraph office.

\* About 3 miles south-west of village the Zab passes through deep gorge betwixt the Duranee and Kultun range, called Kuk Azelao.

15th January 1882.

6-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M.

From ALTYN KOPRU (Golden Bridge).

Latitude . . . 35° 49' N.

Longitude . . . 44° 9' E.

Altitude . . . 1,000 feet.

To ERBIL.

Latitude . . . 36° 10' N.

Longitude . . . 44° 2' E.

Altitude . . . 1,300 feet.

General Direction—north by north-west, 30 miles.

Marched 6-30 A.M., crossing right-hand channel by bridge, which is smaller (though not so steep) than other, over which it is difficult to ride. About 2 miles cross low spur and twice ford brook, and in next mile ascend low, undulating and much-cultivated ground. The road continues thus the entire distance to Erbil, the mountains on either hand 20 to 25 miles apart. Pass several villages,—Sheikh Hassan, Tahush, Girdlanik, Saraila, Bash Tuppa, Kara Tuppa, Kul Tuppa, Haniza, Kush Tuppa, Kurdes, Ibrahim Leker, Murka Isinga, Giderash, Sheikh Girgi, Girdima, Shakhlama, with some high peaks, Kara Chuk, &c., showing in distance to west.

Erbil resembles Kerkuk somewhat, having an exactly similar fort dominating it on the north. One conspicuous minar stands to south of town. One weak battalion troops, 3,000+ houses (?). Ilahi Effendi, a smart-looking Captain of Redifs, put me up; and Reschid Effendi, the Kaimakam, called on me. The battle-field of Arbela is some miles distant, near Guagemala, on the greater Zab. Very bare around here, few gardens and no trees. Soil slightly sandy and excellent.

16th January 1882.

6-30 A.M. to 7 P.M.

From ERBIL to MOSUL, 43° 10' E., 36° 20' N.

General Direction—west by north-west, 55 miles.

Started with saddle-bags and one orderly, leaving Fahim and baggage at Erbil. All Zaptiehs insisted on accompanying me. For 12 miles slightly undulating ploughed country; general direction north-west, descending. Thence

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more undulating, stony, and little cultivated to the Zab. General direction more west; reached Kellek, 22 miles. Cross by two boats; each takes four horses with difficulty. No landing-places; have to jump them, or haul them in bodily. Gravel bed. Stream 150 yards, with a six-mile current. From bank to bank here about 2 miles. Villages of Kellek on either bank, 1½ miles lower.

Post-horse station on left bank at ferry. Forty soldiers were drowned here in 1877. About 32 miles ford the Khazir, 80 yards, stirrup-deep, gravel bed. About 36 miles get on flatter and highly cultivated ground, numerous villages and pass high mountain, Dassuni, visible, since Erbil, on right, and another peak, Maklub, to north of it. Near this is the old Ninivean city of Khorsabad.

Amongst villages passed on way, at about 40 miles, are Guzna and Sheikh Amar, where are curious, raised, artificial, mounds some 70 feet high; and Burtala, a Christian village, with fine church. Cultivation continues right up to River Tigris. About 53 miles pass through old ramparts of Niniveh, which form an oblong of about 2 miles by ¾ mile wide, and after passing close under the mosque of Nebbi Yunus, Jona's tomb, and leaving the mound wherein Sennacherib's palace was found, half a mile on the right, reach the bed of Tigris, the greater part of which is now dry, with brick bridge of 33 arches across the dry portion and a bridge of 18 boats across the stream, which is under right bank. Russell, the Consul, was absent with Captain Chermiside, R.E., towards Rowanduz. Journey, 16 hours, ordinary march, cantered 20 miles.

17th January 1882.

Mosul . . . 43° 10' E., 36° 20' N.  
Altitude . . . 725 feet.

Mosul, right bank of Tigris, has 10,000 houses, of which 1,200 are Christian and 300 Jew. French Dominicans have large schools and church here, but the Christians are in ever so many sects, the two principal divisions being the "Wet" and "Dry," and French Consul has a lively time settling disputes. The English Consul is son of Mr. Russell the correspondent, and the dragoman a cousin of Mr. Rassam. French is much spoken. A Russian officer had been here recently, and preceded me towards Rowanduz.

Rode over ruins of Niniveh, Kouzungik, which I had traversed in the dark. The cities of Nimroud and Khorsabad are 19 miles south-east on left bank of Tigris, and 14 miles north north-west. Few sculptures are now visible, save two winged lions at north-west gate, and some small damaged tablets at the palace. The hill on which Mosul is built is believed to be artificial and full of remains, also the mound on which is Jonas' tomb, which is as large as that already excavated, and equally within the ramparts, but Mussulman fanaticism renders this out of the question. Strange to say, no other remains exist outside this rampart, and, though some suppose that Khorsabad and Nimroud all formed part of the same city, others think them the site of the palaces at different epochs. The probable explanation is, that the mud huts of the common people were so fragile as to have left no traces, but no line of rampart save that above mentioned is found. It is noticeable that all the geographical descriptions of Xenophon as to the Zab, &c., seem strictly accurate. To the west the country seems sandy and barren, a low range of hills, 8 or 9 miles distant, bounding the horizon.

General aspect of Mosul is flourishing. Streets are paved, houses generally of stone, with frequent door and window frames of marble. Some good two-storeyed coffee-houses near the river, and numerous traders about.

The serai stands to south of town near river, outside the walls which surround the city in a semicircle. Had not time to call on the Mutaserrif, Nasim Beg, who is reputed a good French scholar.

B

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With exception of narrow bridges over the smaller water-cuts and irrigated fields, the whole road is passable for field guns from Baghdad to Mosul, save the two chains betwixt Deli Abas, Kara Tepe, Kerkuk, and Altyn Kopru, where a little manual help would be required, as it would also for the bridges at latter place, where guns must pass by hand. The Zab would require more boats. That portion of road from Deli Abas to Taok is most deficient in supplies. Excellent grass for grazing, and flocks of sheep throughout the winter, though in summer the latter migrate west to the Persian plateaux. Barley and chopped straw are the only forage procurable.

From Mosul to Baghdad by Kellek (raft) is but four to six days' journey down stream, and, when river is full, the first half of year, steamers can come up more than half the distance, and are then stopped by rocks, remains of old Assyrian dams. Samarah, a great place for Shiah pilgrims, is on this route, and ruins of El Haddar a march to west of river. The village of Tekrit is the half-way house on this road. Though travellers seldom, if ever, march by the banks; this is chiefly, I believe, owing to want of villages along the route, and difficulty of supplies, and not to any physical obstacles or want of water.

Great numbers of ancient coins are procurable here, though imitations are not altogether unknown.

18th January 1882.

6 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Mosul to ERBIL, 55 miles.

Marched 6 A.M. My Zaptiehs, whom I had left strewn about the road, all turning up. Returned by almost same road, going for 10 or 12 miles by a parallel path, a mile or two distant from the one I had come by. Lots of snipe and teal visible. Took over an hour to cross eight horses at the Zab.

19th January 1882.

6-15 A.M. to 8 P.M.

From ERBIL to HERRASH.

General Direction—north by north-east, 30 miles.

First 12 miles low, undulating, and chiefly cultivated ground, bare and treeless, gradually approaching the high chain of mountains on the right. About 3 miles Christian village, Anchawa, 2 miles on left, and 10 miles through Bahirka, 11 miles dry bed of Bussora, and at 12 small village of Dumwach, and enter gorge of low gravel hills. After a mile, ascent to 1,950 feet, see utter change in scenery, perfect sea of rough, broken earth scarps, with brawling trout streams, oak copse beginning to show, and castle of Dera, 3 miles ahead. Steep descent of

Dera, 2,025 feet.

300 feet, fair going thence; wind up small glens, with clear running water and some nice patches of copse on banks, oleanders and long grass, to Dera, where I was met by the chief and a mounted "Peshwai" of about 30 horsemen. Yakzar Beg, Modeni, and a fine old white-bearded Kurd, Hazi Sheikh Humud, of the Gugdi clan, a Ghazi of the 1877 war, were most affable, and, whilst baggage marched ahead, I had to enter his fort and dine *à la Turc* with them. Never saw men I took to more than they, and regretted much I had not halted to improve their acquaintance. They were curious as to the movement of the Russian officer who had preceded me 10 days to Rowanduz, and evidently thought I was in pursuit of him. The old Sheikh swore eternal friendship to me as an Englishman and enemy of Russia, and the chief sent me on with six of his followers, armed with Sniders, to Rowanduz. The best horse I saw in my travels was an Arab mare of Seglowie breed of the Sheikh's. Hence perpetual ascents and descents; splendid, wild, stony country, with babbling brooks, wild roses, oak scrub, and deep ravines. About 22 miles into bed of large stream, which, together with a couple of small villages, one ruined, an old castle on a craggy peak, and a razor-backed marble range, through a gorge of which the track turns off, are all called Duni. The ravines along foot of this range are particularly bad, and the marble boulders in gorge, where the only track is in bed of stream, so slippery as to be most dangerous riding for 100 yards. Thence bear more north-east, skirting stream, a good many oaks about and slopes becoming easy and gentle, and about 27 miles cross

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saddle Bahiajjik, of over 2,000 feet (crossed in dark), thence descend through oak copse and scrub to *Herash*, a Souchi village belonging to the Dera chief. Rain and snow in night.

20th January 1882.

9-30 A.M. to 2 P.M.

From HERASH (1,400 feet) to KURRUCK.

General Direction—east, 12 miles.

Started late on account of snow. After about a mile, easy ascent up ravine, got on plateau downs, and to 4 miles cross there east to Esh Handil, small river. The valley, betwixt range crossed last night, and mountains to north runs east and west. This range continues east for about 9 miles, where it joins another, running more north and south, and which the Rowanduz road crosses. Two small villages on Esh Handil and commence gradual ascent towards range above mentioned. Fair lot of cultivation; ground very heavy and stony. About 9 miles, 1,900 feet, commence real ascent, marble rock, with no end of mud. About 10 miles after a zigzag ascent to 2,650 feet, gain comparative level, a little cultivation and a few oaks about. Up to 12 miles wind along gradually ascending valley, and last  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile up hill-side to Kurruck, 3,200 feet, where, on account of snow, we halted, it being 5 hours to Rowanduz.

21st January 1882.

Heavy snow rendering a start impossible, had to remain in hut, which was a square, flat-roofed edifice cut into the hill-side, about 30 feet each way and 9 feet high, one door, no window, roof supported by numerous props, fire in centre, horses in one corner, my bed (?) in another, and the remaining available space occupied by family, my followers, clay receptacles for grain, firewood, cocks and hens, dogs, &c., &c.

Splendid hills, tolerably wooded, and a long valley running north and south; one of routes to Choi Sandjak, almost in front, three days' march.

22nd January 1882.

8 A.M. to 2-15 P.M.

From KURRUCK (3,200 feet) to ROWANDUZ (2,000 feet).

General Direction—east, 14 miles.

Marched 8 A.M., descent of 1,000 feet to bed of stream and  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from foot enter Sir Dergan pass, after passing villages of Khalifa and Koniatman, further south. This is prettiest march of whole. For first  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, after crossing by a brick bridge, path winds alongside brawling stream, through splendid gorge, cliffs 1,500 feet overhead, and fine oaks along banks. It then (just opposite to where the Rowanduz Chai joins former stream, and the two united disappear northwards through a tremendous chasm) turns straight up the cliffs to the right (south), and, after a narrow zigzag ascent by a solidly constructed but difficult path, or almost staircase of slippery marble boulders, for 1,000 feet. lands you on crest of range, in an oak forest, 3,475 feet. This pass, most difficult for pack animals, can be, it is said, turned from the south, in the direction followed by line of telegraph. The Turks talk of constructing a road directly up valley of Rowanduz Chai. From crest descend a couple miles, and, crossing mountain stream, which cuts through the rocks to the north, again ascend a barren glen for a mile, where vineyards and cultivation meet you, and, gradually descending for another  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, find the roofs of Rowanduz under your feet. The town is situated betwixt two extremely deep ravines, or rather chasms, formed by junction of a mountain torrent with the Rowanduz Chai, and, though completely commanded from above, was strong enough in old days, when guns could not be brought against it, as the neck betwixt the two precipices is but 100 yards in breadth. Town itself is 2,000 feet above sea and surrounded with vineyards, and contains 800 houses. Was most hospitably put up by Sirtip Ali Bux, descendant of the old chiefs, who retained their independence, and plundered up to the gates of Mosul till within last 50 years. Called on the Kaimakam, Birkir Beg, who returned visit next day, and found

Rowanduz, 36° 27' N., 44° 29' E. Altitude 2,000 feet. Altitude varied from 1,800 to 2,200 feet.

that Russell, the Consul, and Chermiside had just arrived from Mosul, so at chief's request invited them to dine with us. One battalion of regulars is stationed here. Hence to Persia two roads exist, one to north-west by Kelashin pass (said to be 10,000 feet), to Ushnai in three marches, is now, and annually for five or six months, closed by snow; the other to Soug Boulak, four stages. Kurds of this district are of the Balak clan, the chief others recognised by them being the Shamizinia of Sulimania, the Mikir of Soug Boulak, the Koshnan of Choi Sandjak, besides the Bilhas, Mungur, Akhor, Sakuz, Mamush Kurds, &c.

\* Got four miles hence to Soug Boulak, Rs. 40.

The Kaimakam, most jealous of chief, and, finding I had obtained two Kurds from him to accompany me to Rowanduz,\* insisted on my leaving them behind, as he would give me Zaptiehs, &c. Luckily I made them join me outside, as after first day the Zaptiehs demanded a rupee each, and on its refusal deserted, and by time I reached frontier I would have been without even a guide if I had not retained these two.

24th January 1882.

7 A.M. to 4 P.M.

From ROWANDUZ to RAYAN.

General Direction—east, 24 miles.

Chief accompanied me a short way; gave him a pistol. For 5 miles skirt left bank of Rowanduz Chai, ascent over spur, and after another mile strike south-east up side of small tributary for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles, near head-waters of which steep, zigzag ascent through snow; ground apparently soft shale to 4,500 feet. About 17 miles pass Dergala, 3,400 feet, picturesque village, with old castle, fair lot of trees about and most picturesque snow-peaks around. This is on right bank of tributary, down ravine of which road descends for upper saddle, and about here turns almost east again. About 19 miles, after passing through fine oak woods, cross large tributary, if anything larger than the upper part of Rowanduz Chai. Small village of Chokiskin here. Thence ascend to  $20\frac{1}{2}$  miles, 3,175 feet, and descend to, and ford, the Rowanduz Chai at few huts called Amara, and skirt along right bank by a path in many places built up on almost precipitous side of hill, to Rayan, which is situated just beyond a splendid gorge. Mountains here most precipitous and picturesque, but throughout the day a surprising quantity of cultivation, considering the ground, with small villages of a few huts and vineyards, perched high up the mountain sides, told of an industry I had not expected. The defenceless state of the dwellings, and less armed (daggers only carried) state of the Kurds encountered, told also of a state of peace which the inhabitants of the plains do not credit them with. In fact the more I saw of the wilder parts of Kurdistan, the more I felt secure whilst in them—a feeling I never experienced in the lower districts near Sulimania, Kifri, and Baghdad. Rayan is a small village, of about 25 huts, on banks of a regular Scotch trout stream, which brawls along in fine style. Though one or two of the paths are precipitous and fit only for pack horses, in almost all cases by fording the stream a more level route could be adopted and a road for guns made; but the narrow paths seem used as much to avoid wetting your feet as to preserve the level bits for cultivation.

25th January 1882.

6-30 A.M. to 4 P.M.

From RAYAN (2,700 feet) to RAYAT (4,850 feet).

General Direction—north-east, 18 miles.

Bitter wind and hard frost. Zemla's horse, which got bad soreback on way to Mosul, got lock-jaw (from cold?) and died at night. For about 8 miles skirt right bank of Rowanduz Chai, sometimes some height above it. Lovely highland scenery, foliage, and birds, robin red-breasts, &c., wild briars, roses, hazels, &c. At 5 miles many traces of ironstone, almost opposite two picturesque rocky crags (isolated peaks) on opposite bank. About 8 miles ford stream; here, as at most fords, there being a rickety wooden bridge for foot passengers. For about 5 miles ground more open, a good deal of cultivation, and several villages. Derga Horgot, &c., perched 1,200 feet overhead on the slopes of the Warda mountain, which rises to about 11,000 feet. Numerous vineyards on lower slopes, and the Nawanda and Dorahan streams join in

on right bank, near where, entering a narrower gorge, the road from Choi Sandjak joins in,\* about 13 miles. Large flocks of sheep and some most savage dogs in charge, which came for us. Wind up hill-side above river, which is now reduced to a mere brook, passing village of Durhan, and about 17 miles ford the main branch, and, after a mile's easy ascent up a span, chiefly cultivated, turn to left Rayat, 36° 40' N., 44° 57' E. Al. (N.) into village of Rayat, the Turkish frontier station on this road. A few miserable mud huts, with a dilapidated quarantine house. No soldiers, and only some very irregular Zaptiehs. Hard frost here for some months, and trees almost cease. The road has become much easier since Rowanduz, and country more cultivated.

26th January 1882.

7 A.M. to 4-45 P.M.

FROM RAYAT TO KHELISISSAR.

General Direction—east by north-east, 27 miles.

Threatening morning, and glass falling. Over a thousand (?) people are said to have perished in a snow-storm last year, fugitives during Sheikh Abdallah's revolt, and pass generally closed by snow for several months. For about 4 miles skirt along slopes over right bank of stream. Snow knee-deep and track unbeaten. At 4 miles pass ziarat and graveyard, Sheikh Mahomed Balak, with a few gnarled oaks around it. Cross watershed 6,000 feet, about 5½ miles. Slope has got easier and more rounded ever since Rayan, and at watershed are almost like undulating downs. Descend to about 7 miles, when cross tributary of Little Zab and ascend spur,\* crest of which† is 6,050 feet, and, winding down to about 9 miles, enter plain of Little Zab, 4,850 feet. This is a magnificent valley‡ with numerous streams, about 6 miles wide, and extending 8 or 10 miles to the south,§ and quite double that distance in opposite direction. Numerous small villages, almost all burned during revolt of last year, are dotted about. Peswa, a hill fort, seat of Mahomed Aga, Chief of Mamush Kurds, is visible 12 or 15 miles to north-east, and a Persian fort, Mabawa, destroyed last year, but now repaired and garrisoned by 200 Sirbaz, is 2 miles south of road. Passing the small villages, destroyed, of Karia, Shinawa, Guhlasur and Genadar, and fording the rivulets of Little Zab and Shinoyan (flowing south), enter spurs of low hills at about 21 miles, and, after crossing low saddle, just as I was getting thoroughly cold, and wondering where I should find a lodging for the night, found that what seemed a few low mounds became suddenly alive with people, and a very handsome young Kurd, coming forward, welcomed me to the village of Khelissisar.

\* Kandil range.  
† Boundary line of Turco-Persio frontier.

‡ This is called the Ganashim Pass.

§ The Kurds declare that no road to Choi Sandjak exists by this valley, the before-mentioned one by Rayat being alone used. I suspect from all I could hear that there is no real Choi Sandjak Pass, and that caravans all pass *via* Rayat or else *via* Sardasht, the summer track from Sulimania to Soug Boulak.

He was son of Humza Aga, by name Suleiman Aga, relations of the Péswa Chief, and had on the spot a sheep killed|| and other hospitable preparations made. As instance of his desire to please, one of my horses refusing to enter the low door of a hut, the wall was instantly breached to make way. Shot several couple of ducks and snipe in rivulet just in front of village to great delight of population, who were much impressed. Most picturesque crags in rear (south) of village. Had to feed with Chief's son and hold a regular levee all the evening. Terribly hot room and eaten alive by fleas; was told dreadful stories of Persian reprisals last year, after retreat of the Sheikh,—rape, fire, and sword. The present Persian Governor-General of Soug Boulak had just summoned all chiefs thither to warn them that in event of further disturbances they must cross the frontier, as all their land would be confiscated. These, as most Kurds, being Sunis, are bitterly hated by the Persian Shihs. Doubtless, though they denied it, the Kurds of these parts had all taken part with the Sheikh, who has religious pretensions over them, and who undoubtedly dreamed of forming an independent Kurdistan.¶ He is a well-wisher of the English, protecting the French and

Khelissisar, 4,700 feet.  
|| Cutting a sheep's throat on your crossing a threshold is one of the greatest forms of welcome in Persia.

Kurds.

¶ Some of the natives believed he had heard a report of the Shah's death, and aimed at the throne of Persia. Mr. Abbott, our Consul at Tabriz, visited him when besieging Urmia, was excellently received and told he practically desired English countenance, and was escorted through all districts in possession of Kurds.

American missionaries in the Chaldean country, and has a hazy idea that our Indian frontier is contiguous to Southern Kurdistan. The Kurds here also assumed that I was cheyving the Russian,\* who, they said, had been making lists of the villages destroyed, &c., and regretfully remarked they feared I scarcely would catch him now, as he had a week's start. I should add, his muleteers who were here, told me he had made a sketch of the town of Rowanduz topographically. Was warmly invited to come and shoot here. The spring said to be best time. Several horns of ibex, "*Nerya*," shown me, somewhat different from the Cashmere species; also Gosfand, a sort of orial. About thirty of the Chief's followers have Martinis, nearly all with Turkish Government stamps on them, and they tell me that about 10,000 stand of them and 2,000 Winchesters are in the hands of the Kurds of these mountains.

\*Yusefovich, an officer of the Tiflis Chancellerie.

27th January 1882.

7-45 A.M. to 4-45 P.M.

From KHELISISSAR (4,700 feet) to SOUJ BOULAK (4,770 feet).

General Direction—east by north-east, 24 miles.

Hard frost. Escorted by Chief some way, with a lot of well-mounted followers. Shot several teal *en route*. Soon crossed small rivulet, Segman Chai, and, skirting village of Kuranga, followed along its right bank. Ground tolerably open. About 5 miles passing village of Segman, and 8 miles slightly steep ascent and up bed of small mountain stream; wild country but no trees, and at 13 miles reach open crest of Segman, 7,200 feet, deepish snow, but road on whole easy. A lower but longer route *vid* Peswa exists. From this point descend ravine of a tributary of the Souj Boulak, reaching several patches of cultivation about 15 miles, and about 17 miles the valley of the Souj Boulak river, with several vineyards and orchards. Thence, after crossing a little lower to right bank, you follow river close to the town, near which you have one nasty crossing over a mill-stream; rest of road easy; traces of iron hereabouts; cross a spur and descend to town, which is prettily situated in basin of hills. Large stone bridge on Ushnai road to north-west of it, and lots of vineyards around. Having letters for the Governor-General, Hassan Ali Khan, called on him, received civilly, and sent on by his orders, consigned to hospitality of the Turkish Consul, an Armenian Christian, Khoja Abdul Wahad. Had great levee, chiefly of Armenians, one of whom, H. E. Gelahmy, spoke French well. Hakim Aga, Russian agent, &c. All these Armenians are under foreign protection, even Turkish, to escape being squeezed by the Governors.

Souj Boulak, the chief city of North Kurdistan, in Persia, has 1,200 houses, one-third of which are still uninhabited since last year's disturbance. The Persian Governor, formerly Ambassador at Paris, is a fluent French scholar. He has 1,000 men here, but most have only muzzle-loading rifles. Dined with Mr. Gelahmy in evening; half-civilised ladies helped last. Saw lovely rugs. Considerable trade in furs carried on from here with Russia.† Some of the fish here, and home-made wines are most excellent.

Souj Boulak, 36° 45' N., 45° 45' E. Altitude 4,770 feet.

† An agent of a French house brings rugs in these districts annually, they say, to extent of several hundred thousand francs. There are certainly great openings for trade of many kinds in this province.

29th January 1882.

7-45 A.M. to 4 P.M.

From SOUJ BOULAK (4,770 feet) to MIANDAB (4,200 feet).

General Direction—north-east, 27 miles.

Attended by about a dozen Armenians for first few miles, who brought out a breakfast and lot of wine for a farewell drink. For 5 miles skirt river and newly-established line of telegraph, when cross low spur and bear more east. Interkash, 800 houses, and Kumcacha, large village to left, and mountains on right. About 8 miles ascend low undulating spurs, and about 13 descend to marshes of Lake Urmia, which reach about 15 miles. Thence cross marshes, coarse grass, numerous villages destroyed to north, and about 25 miles, crossing the Satao by brick bridge, three arches, enter the ruined and almost deserted town of Miandab, ‡ containing 2,000 houses, and suburb of Mian Kona. The Kurdish envoy last year having

‡ Some ruins and inscriptions exist 7 miles east of this.

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been killed here, result was a massacre, after two hours' resistance, of 2,000 Persians. Got excellent quarters in a clean, newly-repaired house, with oiled paper windows. So great is exasperation against Kurds that no Kurdish muleteer would engage for Tabriz, but got a Persian returning thither for Rs. 63. Was also warned to discard the turbans of my orderlies and substitute Persian fur caps to prevent mistakes, and to wear a fez myself.

30th January 1882.

6-45 A.M. to 2-45 P.M.

From MIANDAB to BINAB.

General Direction—north, 24 miles.

Cold hard frost; just outside town (deserted), had to ford the Jugathu, 80 yards broad, 3½ feet, and difficult from floating ice. Continued north over open plain, deserted villages, some of considerable size, and orchards on all sides, but a few nomads, with herds, alone visible. About 6 miles north Memandar vil-

\* Md. Durchai.

lage, cross marshy brook,\* nitre on banks; and at 8 miles villages of Tapa, Yuzbashikund, and Senahad close to road; latter fortified. At 12 miles enter lane, through walled gardens, and village Malakandi, cross Mirzicha by brick bridge. About 14 miles cross low gravel undulating hill; large villages of Laklar, Midanget, &c., near foot of the Tahend mountains on right, and Chaldean mountains, showing a mass of snow, across Lake Urmia on left. About 17 miles re-enter plain, large villages with orchards visible; left Haji Bazar, Kamzan, Gunai, Sujeabad, &c., towards lake. About 22 miles rocky spur comes down to road, Goranaur, Kultbul, and ruined caravan-serai, and to right endless succession of orchards. Cross Bimabehai by brick bridge; enter gardens and town Binab, scene of check of Kurds last year. Two thousand houses, 7 or 8 serais, excellent private rooms, covered bazars. Saw one or two carts hereabouts. Fruit, meat, &c., cheap and abundant. Paper windows and fire-places in rooms. Great lot of hairy Tartar camels; caravan for Hamadan.

31st January 1882.

6-45 A.M. to 11-30 A.M.

From BINAB (4,330 feet 37° 21' N.) to AJAKSHEHR (4,400 feet).

General Direction—north-west, 14 miles.

Hard frost. Through and skirt gardens couple miles, then 4½ miles of antiquated causeway,† across muddy end of lake. Large villages of Baghdad, Korasvan, and Karakabda, about 8 miles on left; Shorgol, Ellwa, and Isgu on right, near Binab. About 9 miles ascend spurs of Tahend, descending to plain about 10 miles, soon entering lanes of orchards about Kaiman; ford three water-cuts and rivulet, and turn sharp left down lane to pretty village of Ajakshehr, where I got, through the Persian servant of Governor of Souj Boulak, who attended me, excellent quarters in a private house, covered with vines and looking over orchard.

† Rudely paved with round stones, 10 feet wide, and seldom raised more than 2 or 2½ feet.

1st February 1882.

6-45 A.M. to 2 P.M.

From AJAKSHEHR (4,400 feet) to JOGAN (4,450 feet; 37° 47' N., 45° 51' E.).

General Direction—north, 23 miles.

Near Kaiman on west is large mound, artificial, a mass of potsherds; Koh Kanabara to north-west part of Sahind Chain. Hard frost. After half mile, gardens, across open, gently sloping, cultivated ground at foot of mountains; lovely view across lake. About 4 miles entering low hills, offshoots of spurs, ascend gradually to about 7 miles 5,050 feet, then descend to 9 miles, tolerably open and close to lake, from 1 to 2 miles distant, 4,375 feet. About 15 miles, ascent, stony, rocky hills and marble quarries on left, to 18 miles, broken and frequent nullas. About 19 miles descend bed of stream, celebrated for robbers, and soon after 20 miles open cultivated ground; more quarries to left; cross two brooks and enter garden of town. Quarry with one or two rather original stone lions, and graveyard near this on right road. Large town, 2,000 houses, good caravan-serais, supplies, &c.



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meter down to 13° below zero, Fahr. Many shops in bazar closed, and firewood almost unattainable. Fruit trees, generally almond, supply only fuel hereabouts; said to be particularly severe winter. Great fears of the Kurdish advance entertained last year. A large Russian force was concentrated at Jalfa, ready to occupy the province in event of further Kurdish successes.

A party of 7 commissioned and 5 non-commissioned officers, retired, of Austrian army, was daily expected. The late Austrian military commissioner had been dismissed, the Shah wishing to have officers more completely under his own orders.

In these latitudes coffee has quite disappeared, and tea is the only national beverage.

Some feeble attempts at gaiety, including a dance, and one or two dinners, the most amusing of which was at the Turkish Consul's, took place during my stay here. The latter told me the Russian Consul had been to him to enquire if he knew the object of my appearance, and the Russian Consul kindly sent to warn me of plague having broken out at Souj Boulak, &c.

The celebrated Tabriz marble, of which quarries exist near Jogan, is peculiar, being almost transparent, and is frequently used here for shelves, &c., in houses. Distances here are given in farsakhs (farsang), which seem variously estimated at from 3 to 6 English miles, most probably same as "hours" in Arabia, just as the "kharwar," donkey-load, is common measure of weight. Some breech-loading revolvers and guns for sale in bazar here, at about 100 per cent. over European prices.

18th February 1882.

7-15 A.M. to 6 P.M.

From TABRIZ (4,550 feet) to DIZZI KHALIL (4,450 feet).

General Direction—west, 29 miles.

Marched 7-20. Bitterly cold. Mr. English, Persian Director of Telegraphs, with rank of General, who has been ordered to lay a wire to Khoi and Urmiah, not accompanying me. Had given out I was going to Van. Hired yaboos at 30 kranas each to Urmiah. Through cultivated country,\*

numerous villages in sight, and chain of mountains on north (right), about 5 miles distant. About 7 miles cross Agis Chai or Istabil, but so hard frozen and hidden by snow as to be undistinguishable from surrounding country.

Tabriz	to Mian	. 2 Farsakhs.	Village of Mayan, with 2 caravan-serais and
Mian	to Alishah	. 4 "	100 houses on its right bank; 17 miles, 2
Alishah	to Dizzi Khalil	2 "	streams, 3½ miles apart, brick bridges; 18 miles,
Dizzi Khalil	to Tasuj	. 6 "	ridges and ditto; 21 miles, skirt Ali Shah,
Tasuch	to Almas Sorar	3 "	200 houses; spurs of mountains approach
	to Habashi	. 3 "	nearer to road. Cross three small water-cuts,
	to Goochi	. 5 "	2 villages to right, marsh to left, and
	to Sâfli	. 4 "	enter Dizzi Khalil, about 29 miles; small
	to Urmia	. 4 "	village hidden in walled gardens. Good quarters in a private house, sort of

raised alcove at end of stable, with fire-place, warmer than Consulate. Shahi Peninsula stands out boldly to south-west, mountains to north, deep in snow. Had feared I should be followed by escort, but no one turned up.

19th February 1882.

6-45 A.M. to 3-30 P.M.

From DIZZI KHALIL to TASUJ.

General Direction—north-west, 25 miles.

Cold; even running streams easily bore weight of our caravan. About a mile of lanes through walled orchards, then open cultivated ground. Some large villages to left (south), Sufr Mir Alhangi, &c., and numerous ones nestled between spurs of chain on north, which approach to within a couple of miles of road. Chief peaks about 8 miles distant and 10,000 feet high. Passed a large caravan of yaboos from Trebizond, with European bales of goods. Larger orchards and roadside trees here and there, generally plum and other fruit trees, or willow. At 15 miles shores of lake, 1 mile distant, and about 17 miles, where spurs descend too close to shore and road bends round their base, more northerly,

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are some tepid springs swarming with duck, and marsh below. About 21 miles curious mound and ruins to left (west), and saddle or gorge in mountains to north, which here recede and form a bay, within which is Tasuj, a small village hidden in walled gardens. Julfa on the Aras, the Russian frontier, is about 40 miles distant, almost north from here.

20th February 1882.

7 A.M. to 3-30 P. M.

From TASUJ to RAOSHAN (4,670 feet; 45° 26' E., 38° 18' N.).

General Direction—west by south-west, 25 miles.

Bitterly cold wind from north-east; foot of mountains about a mile on north, and bare, open, marshy-looking ground for a couple of miles up to edge of lake on south. Numerous nullas crossed and numerous villages and fruit trees amongst spurs, a good deal of shingle on road. About 15 miles cross stream, low rocky hills close on north, and shores of lake about 1 mile south. Police post, Gumez, here, and flocks of sheep; track branches here half right and half left. About 18 miles cross Sutaigo, and a mile beyond, Bunarjdurra, small streams, hills on north, low, and less cultivation. About 19 miles, opposite north-west corner of lake, shore of which now trends south; 23 miles sandy ground, and near this turn sharp left off main Dilman track, and crossing Sumutchka, a sluggish stream of 40 yards width, on ice, reach Raoshan, a miserable village of about 40 huts. Large herds of ponies here, bought a fair one for 90 krans, to mount Zemla.

Cultivated valley of Salmas stretches up north-west towards Khoi. French convent near Haftovan.

21st February 1882.

7-15 A.M. to 2-38 P.M.

From RAOSHAN to GOOCHI.

General Direction—south by south-east, 20 miles.

Cold, but sun proved hot later on. About a mile after starting had to cross large sheet of ice, and had some croppers amongst animals. Indeed, it was wonderful how our beasts, shod with the Arab plates, and not roughed, ever kept their legs at all; 2 miles through large village, Karafa; about 3 miles pass through some low hills. Imam Zada on knoll on left, and, after passing some sharp, isolated, rocky knolls, about 7 miles, join main track from north-west near ruined village and some very strong tepid springs, forming stream swarming with duck. Shot four or five without going 100 yards from road. A bay of the lake is distant 3 miles left; ground marshy up to it, and round serai, about a mile south-east; 8 miles ascend undulating spurs and enter valley in hills. About 9 miles Yakba Khan, a police post, and cross dry nulla. Barren hereabouts, and a good deal of snow lying 12 miles near eastward, and easy ascent to 5,550 feet; village Karabarren 2 miles west, thence steeper to cross about half or half mile further; 15 miles, elevation 6,150 feet by aneroid. Thence descend down valley of small stream for 3 or 3½ miles, thence along spur descending to village of Goochi, 4,600 feet. The end of range jutting into lake is bold and rocky. Some large blocks of granite strewn about. Rest of hills chiefly earth, with easy slopes. This pass, which, with another summer one more to west and higher elevation, are called indifferently the Goochi, Salmas, and Vergams Passes, is much raided on by Ali Aga, Chief of Sheikhak Kurds. Last year after Sheik Abdallah's retreat the Persians utilised some of their disciplined troops and Austrian officers to punish him under the Heir-Apparent. His fort was eventually taken, and is now held by Persian garrison. But he, though 80 years of age, charged with a handful of men through the Persian cavalry, who made way for him.\* He is now in Turkish territory, and the Persians have nominated one Hassan Khan as chief of tribe. Many of these Kurds have Martinis. Near the upper pass† road are some rock carvings, Assyrian figures on horse-back, life-size, in relief, King and Queen, with followers; Sassanian head-gear; no inscription.

\* The Persian Commander had been first disgraced, and subsequently given a sword of honor for this.

† Between Dilman and Goochi Pass, 4 hours from Yakhtar Khan.

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22nd February 1882.

6-30 A.M. to 5-50 P.M.

GOOCHI to URMIAH.

General Direction—south, 33 miles.

Shore of lake is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from village. Descend for about a mile, then over flat, uncultivated ground, marsh on left (east) to lake, which is 2 miles off, and low hills about as far on the other side, with villages of Jamlawa, Gomla, and Bulangi. About 4 or 5 miles cross strongly running springs, flocks, sheep.

Passed a large number of Sirbaz returning to their homes on leave. A little inquisitive, but very civil, on the whole. Take their muskets with them.

Large orchards round village of Karez, 8 miles, 2 miles west, with high bold mountains. Aogh Dagh, part of Chaldaean mountains, just over south of village. Lake hereabouts recedes further away.

Imam Hindi village destroyed by Kurds on slopes, about 9 miles. From 10 to 16 miles, skirt foot of rocky ridge, 700 feet above road, when turn point; hills recede to west, and large villages and fruit trees shut out view of lake on left. From this point road leads through most rich district, regular gardens with numerous streams bridged, and road often bordered by regularly planted rows of fruit trees; vineyards everywhere. About 21 miles

\* Tide map for names.

pass numerous water-courses and villages,\* amongst other kind, Abas, a Christian one, and at about 31 miles spurs and hills again approaching road, and at 33 miles suddenly perceive new brick gateway close at

Urmin  $37^{\circ} 34' N.$ ,  $45^{\circ} 4' E.$  Altitude 4,400 feet.

hand, hidden by orchards, and enter town. Though there were three large well-built caravan-serais, found every corner occupied as shops, and after more than an hour's wandering about, at length, with great difficulty, got a damp vault-like hole to dismount in. Streets so cumbered by snow-heaps that laden mules could scarcely get along. The Governor sent me some dinner, hearing of my arrival.

Great crowd of merchants, &c., and terribly mobbed next day. So went to call on the French missionaries, and was most hospitably invited to stay by them, and at once found myself in the lap of luxury. Called on the Governor, a young man, Ali Khan, who speaks French well. Town, which is feebly fortified, has 8,000 to 9,000 houses, and is situated in close proximity to the foot of spurs which run down from Mount Sitawar chain on west and surrounded on all sides by orchards and gardens. To east these extend to the lake, here 6 miles distant. One isolated hill, Bizar Dagh, showing up there and some rocky islands in lake, said to hold large numbers of wild goats. Owing to proximity of Binar (in the Nauchia district, is the capital of Sheik Abdallah, near which is a large Christian village, Halania, two days' journey from this), a strong garrison is now maintained,

† And though he is a civilian the Governor commands.

one regiment of 400 cavalry, 500 artillerymen, three regiments infantry, each of 1,000 men; 1,000 of above have Werudis, which are the adopted Persian breech-loaders. This town was besieged by the Kurds for ten days last year. The surrounding villages were plundered, but not destroyed, as the Sheikh counted on their permanent retention. A French Archbishop, styled Bishop of Heracliaide, Mons. Aug. Cluzel, some priests and six French Sisters of Charity, are settled here; former has been 40 years. There is also a colony of American-Presbyterian

‡ Passengers from Tabriz often travel by water from the peninsula of Shahl or near Gogau, in very rude bitumen-caulked boats, which often are becalmed, and take two or three days in transit. Did not notice a single sail on lake during my journey.

of cost, &c., of small steamers.

Missionaries. Both of above work amongst the Chaldaean Christians, who are chiefly to westward of this. When besieged, the missionaries were all offered safe conduct by the Sheikh. Ordinary inhabitants here are Afshars Shiaks. Governor anxious to establish traffic on lake; ‡ promised to procure details

Informing by the French Bishop that zinc, lead, and silver exist unworked in the Chaldaean mountains, and that petroleum oil springs are found that are actually kept on fire by villagers to prevent their overflow tainting the streams. General feeling of insecurity and probability of being squeezed by officials prevents all enterprise; the Christians, moreover, saying these had better be left for the benefit of some Christian Power, and not for that of present rulers. Water of lake, in which no living thing exists, is five times as salt as the sea at the equator, i.e., about 20 per cent. One curious relic frequently found hereabouts. In

mortuary urns 10 feet below surface, two bronze pins, about 4 inches long, driven through skull at ears; and small, coarse glass tea-bottle, nothing else. No notion

\* There are over 20 varieties of grapes here; best quality sell at 1 kran per kharwar.

as to date or history. Though Christians are considerably oppressed, this is done more by the heads of villages than by Government. They are, however, legally prohibited from selling food, acting as shoemakers, &c., selling fruit, &c.\*

Weather warmer and slight thaw.

Both here and at Tabriz I utterly failed in getting any gold tomans, so had to carry the whole sum I had in silver. A Persian post exists between all the chief towns, carried on pack-horses, but so slow that a letter I wrote from here to Baghdad took about seven weeks to get there. The stamp, as

Urmia.

also the new kran, are very neat, and, belonging to postal union, you can send letters from Persia to Europe for 2½d. One very break-neck path, from Urmia to Neri-Turkistan, exists. Another route to Ushnai, two marches, now closed by snow. From here there

† By valley of Syakchai.

is a route of three stages to Rowanduz,† but crossing the Kalashin Pass at over 10,000 feet, and closed by snow for five months annually. On this road, about two hours from Ushnai, is an Assyrian inscription, on Sheikh Iwa, "The Peak" mountain. This must probably have been the old Niniveh-Ecbatana road. Gave out to Governor, who was inquisitive as to my movements, that I was on way to visit this inscription. All declared I would be obliged to follow the road by edge of lake to Sheikh Ahmed, and then up valley of Sudduz to Ushnai on account of snow.

Was told a petition, signed amongst others by some of richest inhabitants, had been captured last year by the authorities, praying for a Russian annexation. Talking of military conscription here, the Governor told me he could not understand how men stood it, neither pay nor food, and that a regiment sent, for instance, to Eastern Persia, Meshed, &c., would somehow continue to get along and reach their destination. The men of this province, especially Aderbaizan, seem perfect material for soldiers, and, both from fertility of district and mineral wealth, would doubtless prove a most paying province in the hands of Russia. Throughout the basin of this lake Turkish is the language of country, and but few men in each village understand any Persian, soldiers and wandering fakirs alone, as a rule, doing so.

27th February 1882.

7 A.M. to 2-30 P.M.

From URMIA to JAIRAN,

General Direction—south-east, 20 miles.

Not so cold, and road very muddy. About a mile outside cross dry gravel bed of Chaishai; bridge exists a little lower; 3 miles spurs approach road on right. Thence through well-cultivated country, numerous gardens. On way a mounted Persian, with whom I got in conversation, suddenly asked if I spoke French, as he did very well, and told me he had resided three years at Lyons, where he had learned photography. Continue thus crossing numerous water-cuts and keeping spurs of hill a couple of miles on the right, passing numerous villages, and the Kasidage, a larger stream than others, about 10 miles; and about 14 miles, Fort Morad Ali, on spur 1 mile west; 17 miles, reach bank of Baraulu, a largish stream, just fordable, number of storks' nests about in trees, and after skirting down left bank for half mile cross by brick bridge, four arches, at village Sardaro. Turn left (east) to village Jairan, two or three hamlets. Great difficulty in getting a house, the three horsemen promised by the Governor never having put in an appearance. At last a soldier consented to admit me, and no sooner was I installed than a couple of Moollahs, with an excited crowd, forced their way in to ask whether I was a friend of Sheikh Abdallah, and whether a Suni or Shiah! Had some difficulty in squaring them. At this time I wore a Fez and Kabul poshteen, breeches, puttis, and shooting-boots, and my two orderlies Persian kulas, poshteen, and puttis, so our nationality was not so apparent. After reaching Souj Boulak resumed our puggris. My host complained bitterly of his own Government, said if he were only in the Russian, Turkish, or any other army he would be fed and clothed, but that here he was having to serve alternate years, or find his brother as substitute; had already been serving thus

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during 20 years, and would be kept at it all his life. He got no remission of taxes, and had to pay 3 tomans per half-year for his hut. Showed me his musket and accoutrements, which they keep at home with them,—old muzzle-loading smooth-bore musket, dirty antiquated belts and pouch.

28th February 1882.

6-30 A.M. to 6-15 P.M.

From JAIRAN (4,275 feet) to SHEIK AHMED (4,200 feet).

General Direction—south by south-east, 35 miles.

This is about southern limits of the Urmia gardens. Lake is 2 miles west, and hills about as far on east of village. After a few gardens and open ground, ford small tepid stream and cross low spurs at 2 miles. Thence descend and skirt along shores of lake, to which slopes descend. An upper track exists, avoiding Jairan, but going round at 4 miles. Ground now uncultivated, save patches at villages Rashakan, Shashagal, &c. Eleven miles, shore of lake tends eastward, and a fortified village, Tergan, stands on rocky scarp over water; ascend easy slope for mile, then through gardens of Dizza to 14 miles, then again skirt low slopes and shore of lake; crossing larger spurs at 18, and deep ravine 21 miles, rather likely spots for robbers; 25 miles shore of lake again recedes east. Very strong smell from the kind of seaweed on shore, rather disagreeable; 27 miles, crest of spur, 4,470 feet, aneroid reading, easy ascent, and see valley Sulduz at feet. Large part of it now flooded. The Kalashin Pass visible to west at head. Skirt along spurs and cross flat ploughed plain to another low spur and hollow road, (3 feet); and descend to village of Sheikh Ahmed, 50 or 60 flat mud huts; valley about 5 miles wide, and as much pastoral as agricultural. Large flocks, sheep, yaboos, &c. Terribly savage dogs, who live on roofs, even throughout snow, and troop down in a pack on any stranger. Robbery quite impossible, and it is dangerous for any stranger on foot to approach at night, unless with villager. Dogs all have names, and are said to recognise instantly any one of inhabitants' voices. Had to draw my sword to keep one off, although mounted. Some of neighbouring villages belong to Mr. Gelately, whose brother was there, of which unfortunately I was ignorant. Put up by shepherd. Here, as common in these parts, there is a fire-place sunken 3 feet or so in floor, and kept always full of embers. The ladies of house could not for long bear themselves away from the attraction of sticking their legs down this, notwithstanding our presence. Bitterly cold evening. Inhabitants here Turks, and seem to have suffered little from the Kurds, probably joined them.

1st March 1882.

6-15 A.M. to 5-30 P.M.

From SHEIKH AHMED (4,200 feet) to SOUJ BOULAK (4,300 feet).

General Direction—south-east, 33 miles.

Over marshy but tolerably cultivated ground, 4 miles, through partly ruined village Mahomed Shiah on left bank of Gadr Chai or Sulduz Chai, marsh on right bank, foot of hills south boundary of valley 3 miles off, several villages along slopes. Bear more to east, passing two or three villages, Dungia, Duna, &c., at end of low rocky spur which juts out into plain. Large herds and good many ponies about. From enquiries a fair yaboo was procurable for Rs. 40. Cross some water-cuts and through reeds to about 11 miles to stone bridge, three arches, to which road makes a curious loop. River seemed deep and unfordable, 30 yards wide. Reason of its being off direct line was, I believe, to avail themselves of a block of rock at one side for foundation. Villages of Saradash and Mania on right bank near, and steepish rocky hill overhanging, along base of which road skirts. One very black and oily piece of soil showed here through snow. Circle round foot of hill and cross spur, 4,270 feet, open and undulating, grassy marshes to left (east) close to road, and two or three villages a mile or two off track. Hills become more detached and smaller; 17 miles easy ascent round spur to your right (west), and down gentle grass descent and over some low undulations, snow melting and ground heavy. About 22 got large villages of Interkash, &c., to left; passed on other side on way from Souj Boulak to Miandab in January, and 25 miles

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over spur, descend about 100 feet, and at 26 miles strike banks of Souj Boulak river, opposite Usukund; close to this is end of spur, across which the Souj Boulak-Miandah road crosses about half mile off. Being misdirected we forded river here and made for this road and line of telegraph, being bothered on right bank by a deep water-cut which mules crossed with difficulty. Proper road runs for some way up left bank and crosses nearer town. Sent on, and was met by Mr. Gelately's cousin and put up by him. Found that telegrams concerning me had been sent down from Tabriz.

Several storks turned up to-day, a sign, according to the inhabitants, of beginning of spring. Called on the Governor-General, Hussan Ali Khan, whose full titles are *Amir-u-turam, Ministre des Travaux Publics, Gouverneur-Général de Souj Boulak, Svinkaleh et de Gerus, Commandant-General de l'armée Persane à Souj Boulak*. He is native of Gerus, and came here with army last year. Being ordered by the Shah to make an example of particularly Suleiman Khan, one of Sheikh Abdullah's adherents, he enticed him to Souj Boulak under an oath on the Koran that he had nothing to fear from him up to the day he descended into his grave. In tent prepared for his reception a grave had been dug, covered by carpet, and on the Khan's sinking into this he was shot. An instance of Persian justice occurred day after my arrival. Four robbers caught had a nose, hand, and ear respectively cut off, whilst the leader was flogged to death. This justice is tolerably efficacious, and the security of the roads on the Persian side of frontier contrasts strangely with the anarchy of the Turkish provinces. Chances of detection and capture are so few that an extra stringent penalty must be exacted to make justice feared. Called daily and had long chats with the Governor, some medicines I gave him being much appreciated. He also returned my visit, an unusual circumstance. Heard our intimacy caused much conversation in bazar, and it was said that some recent changes of sentries, and issue of cartridges and breach-loading rifles to some of his followers were dictated by my advice. Received visits from Jewish Rabbi, who gave me petition for Sir Moses Montefiore and from several merchants, including Russian Tapirhashi Agent, which I returned; also made sketch of town for the Governor which he said he was going to send to the Shah. Spring apparently set in, mild snow disappearing, and blue crocuses sprouting everywhere.

Wrote to Suleiman Aga excusing my not visiting his village for shikar on account of snow rendering the latter impossible. Heard that the Ganashin Pass was so thoroughly closed by fall of snow just after I crossed it that two messengers on foot had failed to get through, and that drifts lay over top branches of the oaks round Ziarat Sheikh Mahammad Balak.

6th March 1882.

7-15 A.M. to 1-30 P.M.

FROM SOUJ BOULAK TO HAJI ALI KHAN.

General Direction—east, 13 miles.

Some rock-carvings are said to exist on face of precipice of isolated hill to north-east of Juberakash.

Accompanied by large cavalcade of Armenians, and had a pic-nic breakfast on way. Also by a Persian,\* who ranked as captain of cavalry, with two or three followers, sent by the Governor-General to see me to Sakuz. He had a very small blue cloth uniform that rather threw my kit into shade. Immediately outside town enter narrow valley, few traces cultivation, three miles ascent, wind upwards hill about six miles; cross ridge 6,000 feet, descend to 5,450 feet next mile, and wind along high-lying, fairly open valleys, with slopes easy, and at 13 miles reach village Haji Ali Khan, 100 houses. Deep snow was terribly fatiguing on this march; horses kept continually sinking till your stirrups touched snow, and as it was partially beaten down, and crust occasionally bore, there was terrible plunging. Meeting convoy yaboos, who hustled us off beaten path, one of Governor's men instantly felled one of muleteers with butt of rifle, cutting his head badly. The poor devil, who did not dare to murmur, refused to take a few krans I offered him, from pride apparently. The mules I got at Urmia for 12 krans each to Souj Boulak, refused to come further, so hired four there at 40 krans each to Sulimania. Eventually they engaged on and accompanied me to Baghdad.

\* Sultan Kai Kawan.

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About 5 miles out another road branches off more to south-east, but was said to be difficult from snow. From Haji Ali Khan two other roads to Sakuz exist *via* Borhan, used in summer, said to be three farsakhs shorter, and the Ba Sunga road. Two prominent peaks stand on south of village Almalas and Sultan Said Wakai. A wedding being on, was left to myself, all available population dancing. Women unveiled, as general amongst Kurds, arm and arm with men, the whole in a circle going round and round a few musicians with drums and reed flutes, who kept up a monotonous but tolerably correct tootling, certainly very many degrees above Hindoo melodies.

8th March 1882.

6-45 A.M. to 5 P.M.

From HAJI ALI KHAN (5,600 feet) to BOKAN (4,450 feet).

General Direction—south-east, 34 miles.

Bright, gay colors worn, picturesque scene. Lots of dogs. There had been some fighting here with some of the Sheikh's Kurds who tried to loot, and eight or nine villagers had been killed. An Armenian merchant held this village as his compatriot did of many in districts whose Agas, ruined by events of last year in particular, were glad to leave.

For three miles follow bank of stream to village Sigar, 5,200 feet, ford it and over undulating cultivated ground; Kilai-el-Kasul Salif, about 6 miles; 3 miles left, and decided fall into Miandab valley, Maragha hill, Sahend, &c., clearly visible; undulating, few villages to 14 miles. Sheep, larks singing, at 15 miles into plain and cross two streams to Ashagu, skirt under rocky ridge at 1miles, striking left bank of Tatawa. Hills on right bank across valley 4 miles; at 25 miles Unchar, big village, with Fort Mahammad Aga. At 30 miles large villages, where for only time during travels was refused lodgings, owing, I fancy, to my Persian companion; descend cultivated ground, grove and ford to west of village Ustapa, half mile down on right bank; 33 miles cross ford, 80 yards; girth deep, and after water-course and mill. Bokan at 34 miles, with old fort on knoll above town. Hospitably received by Munshi of Saf-uddin-Khan in a very small house, owner just gone to Souj Boulak. Small covered bazar here, and building going on, 400 houses (?); most marvellous spring, lukewarm, in court of mosque, from which large stream flows through town; full of fish.

9th March 1882.

6-30 A.M. to 2-25 P.M.

From BOKAN (4,450 feet) to SAKUZ (5,075 feet).

General Direction—south, 24 miles.

Pass few gardens, hills close left for 1½ miles, open to 5 miles, low ridge Lots of villages in sight up Valley Tatawa, and high snow-chain on west 7 miles, Imam Sultan Altimas up hill west, ascend 5,000 feet, some ups and downs, crossing a couple of streams tributary of Tatawa, and at latter village of Sarsloe, boundary of Sakuz and Mikri Kurd, and ascend a gently rising snow field; marching again heavy; at 15 miles, crossing saddle 5,500 feet, descend to stream which skirt and cross at 19 miles. Several villages in sight, and valley whence inner stream tolerably open. Lots of sheep about. Path now ascends and winds round spurs of hill on right (west) about 23 miles,

descending to Sakuz, which is situated at end of a long low spur overhanging left bank Sakuz river, tributary of Jugathu. Was met by a regular

Peshwai, Chief's brother, and about 20 mounted men. Ruinous little town of 1,000 houses with an equally dilapidated house of the Khan, and some feeble attempts at covering in the roofs of bazar. Jews very rich here. Was installed in the Khan's best room. He is a tall, strikingly handsome man of about 30, Mesjid Khan by name,\* fair complexion, clean shaved, as is indeed

\* Mohammad Hassan Khan and Abdulla Khan being two of his nearest relatives. customary with all Kurds, and most Turks and Persian soldiers, with a long black moustache, and has more the appearance and bearing of a smart

cavalry officer than of the chief of one of the wildest tribes of the country. He is nominally Persian Governor of district, but told me is terribly spied upon and watched. I formed a greater friendship for him than for any other native met with in my travels.

Heavy snow, making roof of my room leak like fun, detained me here till 13th.

Met extraordinary character here, Nur Mahomed, son of Sultan Mahomed, Khyberee, from village Kudum, near Jumrood. Bright and intellient, appears 50, says he is 98. Formerly by his own account in high power and greatly trusted in Kabul; fought against us in 1840. Served as Ressaldar in the "Khaki Ressalah" in mutiny; worships Lumsden, remembers Daly, &c.; shows three severe wounds received at Delhi, made three "haj's" to Mecca.

Served as a volunteer with Turks in 1877, has been wandering amongst Kurds since as a fakir, and going in spring to Merv to raise Turkomans against his pet enemies the Russians. The story of his own life is too romantic to be true, but I never heard a clearer memory, more vivid description of events, nor a truer idea of geography amongst Orientals than he possessed; and I found it impossible

\* The impression I formed was that his facts were right enough, but the order in which they occurred, and periods when they came off, were all mixed up.

to puzzle him as to relative position of Merv, Bokhara, &c., &c. Of course he is a fanatic,\* and has his head slightly turned, so could not get a consecutive narrative from him. Briefly, he says, that from 16 to 46 years of age he served at Kabul, this during Sikh occupation of Punjab. That he was prisoner two years at Bokhara, whence he was ransomed by Kurchay and Kabuli merchants, to whom he gave a bond on his father for Rs. 40,000. This apparently was when Mahomed Akbar Khan was there confined, of whose escape he gives romantic tale of a mine driven under walls by some professional Afghan robbers to his prison. In returning he visited Sabz, Balkh, &c. Gave his discharge on Mahomed Akbar's death, and travelled *via* Herat to Baghdad, and Mecca, *via* Mosul, Aleppo, Sham, Misr, Medina, and back Egypt, Alexandria, Constantinople; stayed three years, again

to Mecca, Yemen, stayed one year, returned to Mecca; Misr, Sham, Mosul, Baghdad, two years; Busreh, Mecca *via* Nejd, Bombay,† Kurrachi, Peshawar, Kabul. Here he was employed in command of a force against the Kaffirs. Gave vivid description of their two chief strongholds, Gumbir and Khabir, quite impregnable; but after waiting before the pass, on either side of which they are situated, he learned through spies that on occasion of the wedding of the son of headman of the one with the daughter of the other he made a night attack and found forts deserted, and captured place, slew a lot, and took 200 women and children, who sold as slaves from Rs. 1,000 downward. Spoke greatly of strength of Kaffir wine, and skill and force of their archery. Arrows would transfix a man at 200 yards (*sic*.)

† This must have been in 1857.

This he said was about 20 years since. He was then placed in irons by Shere Ali three months; and sent to Herat in command of two cavalry regiments of 600 men each; here he was seven years. Was present at Mahomed Afzul's death, and that he was the man who made Yakub Khan prisoner,‡ by surprise, and sent him off secretly under escort to Kabul. Served throughout war with Abdul Rahman previously.

After Herat, travelled to Munchao, Jengidi, Pandeh, Meshed, Teheran, Baghdad, Mecca, Baghdad, Turkey in 1877, and since then wandering amongst Kurds.§ Was with Hamawands in the massacre of Persians on Upper Diala last year, and gloried in it.

Shiahs, than you are," he said. Reminding him Guides in his narrative, he said he returned by sea to Bombay whilst siege of Delhi was going on, and went straight up and served under Daly. He remembered his drill, and had undoubtedly served.||

§ Whenever in difficulties calls himself English subject and appeals to our Consuls.

|| Offered to take me to Merv with him, and I believe he would have done it, and that in his company I should have been safe.

He tells me they knew of my intended visit two days before my arrival. A horseman of the Khan's, who was in Souj Boulak, having, the very evening I had engaged mules for there, ridden through with the news. Opinions were divided as to whether I was Russian or English, but all agreed I was a Government emissary. Tells me the Khan is terribly in debt; has about 300 cousins

to keep. Mesjid Khan himself told me that, though his assessment is 3,000 tomans a year, he has to pay 10,000, the balance going to the Governor-General of Province, Ministers, &c. That he recently had to raise 6,000 tomans from the Jews to meet some of these demands, and was now called upon for 3,800 more. When the Persian army from Ispahan was on march to oppose the Sheikh last year they burned many of his villages, doing 12,000 tomans damage, and though he proceeded to Teheran to complain he could get no redress. That he was so worried he almost thought of quitting the country and flying to Turkey. Here, as elsewhere, Kurds are Sunnis, and bitterly hostile to their Shiah rulers. Mesjid Khan, of whose powers and dare-devilry many stories are current, was absent burning a neighbour's village one of the nights of my stay. The

Southern Kurds.

\* Found comparatively few Persian-speaking inhabitants throughout my travels. Kurdish is a mere *patois* of Persian, to which most of the words bear considerable resemblance, e.g., Rab, (road) Persian = Reh (Kurdish). On whole, Turkish would have been of far more use than Persian through country visited.

Southern Kurds are divided into 12 clans: Sehna, Sakuz, Banah (Souj Boulak, Sulimania), Abramani Suni (Tahela, Turkish\*), Abramani Takt (Sulimania), Juanro, Miandarband (Kirmanshah), Kamanghur, Sursur (Kirmanshah), Isfanabad (Hamadan), Pilakho (Aushar, Persian), Kurkera (Aushar, Persian). As to what their numbers may be, it seems pure guess-work. Some say one million, some two, some a half. Dissensions and clan feuds weaken them, as they did the Scotch Highlanders, and they do not attempt resistance to the Persians, whose present army is far from formidable, but in the event of any invasion the great fact would be that the invaders would find auxiliaries rather than enemies in them, which, considering the nature of the country, is of enormous importance. Persian-born Governors are now beginning to replace the Kurdish Chiefs, who up to now were always Governors of their own districts. None of the present Chiefs have any great authority. The Mukri Kurds, Souj Boulak district, are, perhaps, the most numerous, but there is now no one recognised head. Habbi Beg, Juanruni, whose headquarters are at Kellak, 8 farsakhs from Zohab, is said to be the biggest man, and to have from 26,000 to 100,000 clansmen. The Jafs, who are on both sides of the frontier, on the Diala, and chiefly nomads, and are considered Kurds, though apparently more resembling Arabs, are divided into the Kashkai, Sursur, Babagani, and Abrami clans, and are popularly said to muster 35,000 horsemen. Mahomed Pasha, who lives near the Sulimania-Kifri road, is the most powerful man of those parts.

*Sakuz.*—High rocky range. Burda Suz, east of town, on right bank of Sakuz river, and very high chain, continues thence towards south-west, across which Sihna road runs. This was declared to be now impassable from snow.

Routes from	
Sakuz to	
Salieb	2 farsakhs, closed by snow.
Mirza Mirachi	4 farsakhs.
Divandarra	6 "
Baklama	6 "
Sihna	6 "
Chernoo	6 "
Kamiram	8 "
Karmanshah	8 "

Routes from	
Sihna to	
Kargowa	5 "
Dahgulian	5 "
Kurba	8 "
Hama Kassi	8 "
Hamadan	8 "

Mountainous, but fairly easy.

There is a shorter route, Souj Boulak to Sulimania *via* Miradeh-Baneh, usually taken by caravans; besides that of Souj Boulak-Sardasht to Sulimania, said to be now closed by snow. One caravan had got through from Sulimania to Souj Boulak, but a fresh fall had since occurred.

The whole of these upland valleys are invaded every spring by Jaf and other nomads, and, according to some informants, mounted parties of the latter make swoops on villages even in this district, all of which are perfectly defenceless, levy blackmail at their discretion, re-crossing the frontier ere they can be punished.

Snow almost daily, and roof leaked much. The Khan left me to myself most of time, only visiting me an hour or two daily, and only once had I to eat with him, when one tray was reserved for us two, and other trays for each three or four of his chief attendants, excellent food in its way; and he openly offered me "mastic," which he drank himself occasionally.

On taking leave he sent a cousin to accompany me to Baneh, with letter for the Khan and orders for all villagers to turn out and carry my kit over pass; gave him my Soper Express. He wished to give me a mule, instead of which I took his dagger, to which he added a prayer carpet and jacket. I parted from him with real regret.

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13th March 1882.

9-30 A.M. to 2-30 P.M.

From SAKUZ (5,150 feet) to MIRADEH (5,450 feet).

General Direction—south-west, 17 miles.

Mules went ahead separately, road very muddy from melting snow; follow valley of river, which for 5 miles is within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. After that strike over low undulations. Several villages in sight, mostly at some little distance, and all of miserable appearance. High range on left (south), Shakh Mulla principal peak, 5 miles off, 10,000 feet; about 9 miles, near village Tamoga,\* two streams join, both regular Scotch trout streams; cross the north one and skirt along left bank of other. Near village Balajar, at 15 miles, slopes, along which path runs, are steeper. At 17 miles, village Miradeh, on banks, 40 houses. Decent accommodation in headman's house, to whom gave compass.

\* Near this the usual caravan route, Souj Boulak to Sullimania, joins in; Souj Boulak to Miradeh, 3stiff marches, Souj Boulak to Isakond, 5 hours; Karaa 6 hours, Miradeh 5 hours. Hilly road.

14th March 1882.

8-15 A.M. to 11-15 P.M.

From MIRADEH (5,450 feet) to KAPURA (6,125 feet).

General Direction—south-west, 9 miles.

Snow at night; doubtful about start, but tried. Cross biggish rivulet at 1 mile, and smaller brooks at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and 5; hug left bank all the way. About 5 miles path narrow and rocky, but no great difficulties. When about 7 miles, heavy snow-storm began, and all villagers, of whom we had some 60 with us, declared it impracticable to attempt the pass; so branched off to Kapura, a small village of 30 huts, 1 mile north-west of main track, on chief branch of stream, 6,125 feet; had some regular snow-bridges to cross, over which yaboos had to be fairly lifted, as they sank belly-deep every stride.

Had best hut of village about 12 by 12 feet, 7 feet high! A good many "chuppatties" of the poorer people are made from a small seed, "aryan" or "gou," which grows wild here, somewhat resembling canary seed.

15th March 1882.

7-45 A.M. to 5-30 P.M.

From KAPURA (6,050 feet) to BANAH (5,400 feet).

General Direction—south-west, 15 miles.

Retraced our steps for about a mile, and just at junction of the Kapura with the Kalakua brook, unloaded mules and prepared for ascent. Horses were sent over spurs to left, *i.e.*, east of tract, whilst the baggage on porters kept up left bank of stream. Save a few score yards at first, road apparently easy and good, but such a depth of snow that it reached top twigs of bushes; slopes of hills easy, and about half way up a few bushes begin. Easy gradients from 5,900 to 6,800 feet, about an hour's walk. Thence, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to crest 7,475 feet. Last 300 feet especially steep; 18 minutes to do this bit; near foot is a ruined like building, formerly a caravan-serai. Thick mist hid everything. This point is 7 miles from Kapura; equally steep descent for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, but no rock—merely earth slopes; trees begin, and descend to village Simach, 5,970 feet; at 9 miles foot of pass, at head of Baneh valley. All surrounding hills fairly wooded, oak and thorn; saw one or two wild ash, and, I think, walnut. Paid off porters and waited in the mosque of place, where a fire was lit for me, for the horses, which did not turn up for  $2\frac{3}{4}$  hours, about double the time we had taken; they had kept round by the wind-swept ridges, but had been over croup in some of the drifts. Marched down right bank of stream, road very muddy, 7 or 8 villages inside valleys, and good deal of cultivation, hills well wooded. Thirteen miles, Kilai Tarash, on rocky peak, 500 or 600 feet over road; 15 miles, very open, plough, met by Peshwai of Chief's son, &c. Ford stream and enter town. Rather handsome house, received most warmly by Khan, man of 50, who seemed delighted to see an Englishman. The whole of our popularity in these parts is owing to our supposed championship of Turkey against Russia.

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*Banah*, town of 600 houses, betwixt river-bank and a deepish ravine. Chief, 45° 54' E., 35° 59' N. Altitude 5,400 feet. is head of the Banah Kurds. A peak, Arbat, 3 miles south of town, has its slopes covered with vineyards more than half way up. Town has a slightly more prosperous look than Sakuz, and the Khan's residence was certainly far finer and better furnished. His great show carpets were some gaudy, striped, cheap, French railway rugs, which were evidently prized far above the beautiful Kurdish ones.

From Banah it is 7 hours to Sardasht, which was burned last year, but is now held by Persian garrison. Open easy road, one river to ford. Summer traffic Sulimania to Souj Boulak passes by Sardasht, but passes which are described as very rocky (many hawks come from that side) are now closed by snow. It is 3 marches *via* Jiltomar from Sardasht to Souj Boulak generally, or four easy; Nihsan 16 miles, Jiltomar 17 miles, Bairan 20 miles, Souj Boulak 12 miles.

Akursa 24 miles, Sulimania 27 miles, difficult ford over the Aksu. From Banah direct road to Sulimania (closed for another month by snow) is Shewakar 5 hours, Kalachwala 5 hours, Sulimania 4 hours.

Another, now open, Kanyan, 4 hours, Pengwin 5 hours, Mamakilla 6 hours, Sulimania 4 hours.

Merwan is 10 hours from here, Sirambal 4 hours, Bin (mountainous stage) 6 hours, Asrabad 4 hours, Janawara 6 hours, Doissa 7 hours, Sihna 3 hours.

17th March 1882.

8-45 A.M. to 2-15 P.M.

From BANAH (5,400 feet) to SERAMBAL (6,050 feet).

General Direction—south by south-east, 13 miles.

Heavy snow had fallen since my arrival, effectually blocking Kalakua Pass they said. For 2 miles road very muddy and heavy, with half-melted snow, plough at 2½ miles low saddle; descend banks of small stream fringed with willows. Hills still wooded, at 5 miles, valley; on left village Halabjek, and small river Ab-i-Fan. On right bank, about 6 miles, is artificial mound; undulating road to 9 miles; traveller met here declared further on drifts too deep for mules. At 9 miles ford stream and commence ascent, wooded spur. Fearful snow and sleet, with gale of wind, here caught us, but not a village anywhere. About 11 miles road very difficult for a mile, two deep ravines and three spurs, part of path zigzag. About 12 miles, top highest spur 6,200 feet. Thence descend slightly to Serambal, 50 houses, at 13 miles.

15th March 1882.

From SERAMBAL (6,050 feet) to PENGWIN (4,850 feet).

General Direction—south, 21 miles.

Aga, cousin of Yunus Khan, lives here; fine young fellow and fond of sport. Had heard *en route* that lots of game were to be found in the Banah forest, but here is nothing save partridge and other small game. No trees of any size,—6 feet circumference the largest I noticed.

Descend short way, then up spur to about 2 miles, at which point is the frontier, 6,050 feet. Skirt along hill, descending deep-wooded ravine on right. From 3 to 5 miles undulating forest ground, then zigzag path, not rocky, from 5,050 feet to 4,650 feet; enter bed of small stream, and skirt down right bank to 7 miles, where strike right bank of Surab river, 70 yards broad, and just fordable.

Opposite the ford, one line of road strikes off *via* Bistan—called 2 hours—to Sulimania, which is 8 hours thence, but it having been burned last year by one of the Banah Khan's cousins, on a question of black-mail, supplies were unprocurable. Also five or six of Yunus Khan's followers attached to me declared they were responsible to see me safe to Pengwin; so proceeded thither. Over open, wet plain, covered with crocuses and flowers showing through snow, and up line of small stream to rocky saddle 12 miles, another point of frontier. Thence across wide plain, with some isolated hills on it, at 15 miles, skirting foot of hills on left (east); cultivated but terribly wet plain on right, pouring rain, and high wind,

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most dismal march. About 16 miles village Bamabal, small defile, again open to 19 miles, where ford the Bimansuchai or Mashkal stream, 70 yards, girth-deep. Another mile of open, bear to east up valley between low hills, and at 21 miles is the frontier town of Pengwin, terraced in amphitheatre, rising up from small stream; 200 houses, 8 Zaptiehs and a Modeni; put up hospitably by him.

Tells me he has been here 12 months, not a farthing of pay, and the captain of Redifs here 2½ years. That he has 50 villages, and 8 unpaid Zaptiehs to keep order. That he has now received orders to furnish some elaborate census returns, for which he has neither clerk nor paper; that the Hamawands might ride up and camp in Sulimania, and would find no one to oppose them, &c. Wild night and heavy sleet-storms.

19th March 1882.

8-15 A.M. to 6 P.M.

From PENGWIN (4,750 feet; 35° 36' N., 46° 6' E.) to MAMA KULAN (4,200 feet).

General Direction—west by south-west, 27 miles.

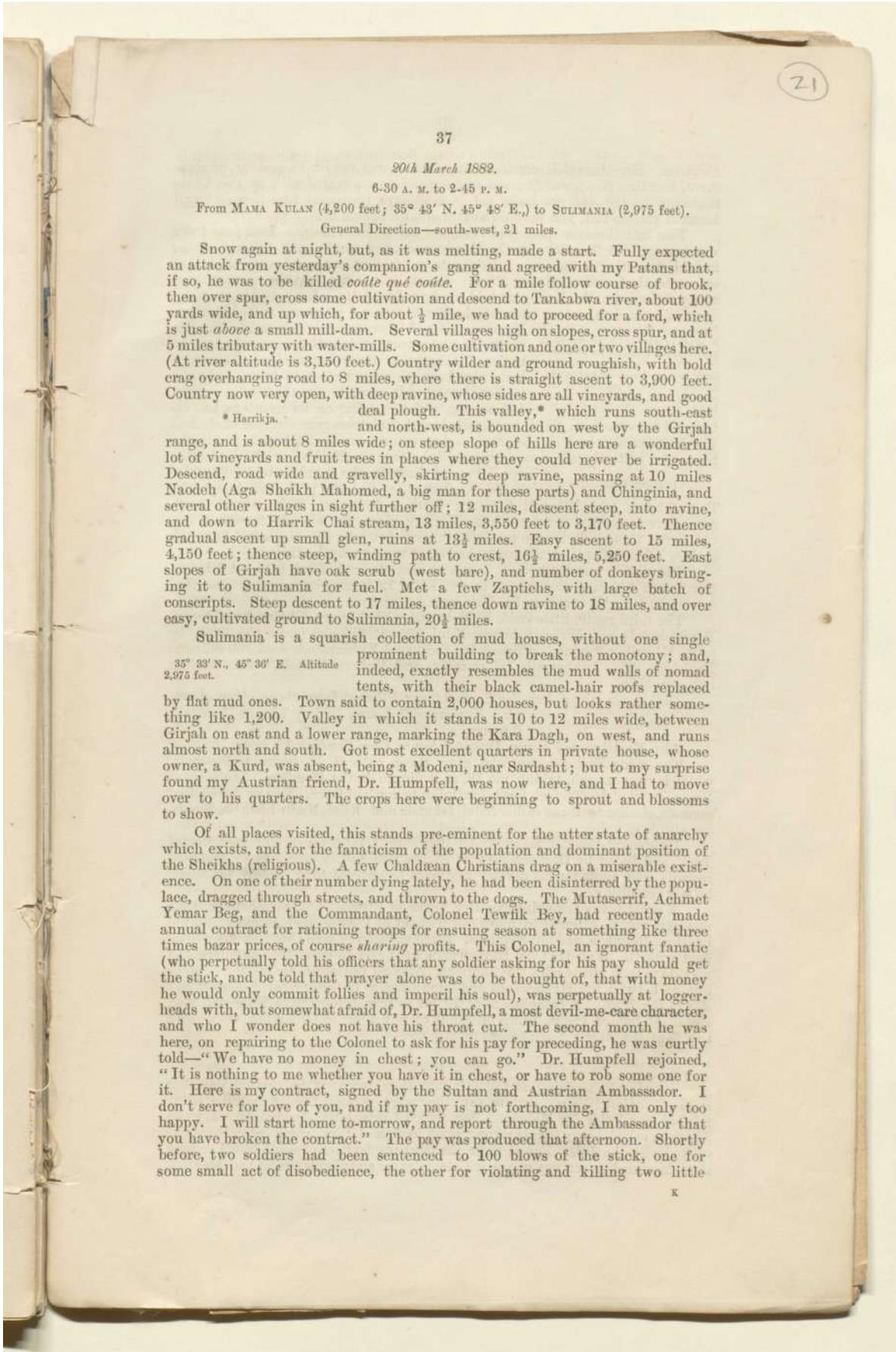
Started with escort of 6 Zaptiehs, who promptly deserted at first village. For 9 miles skirt low range on left. Bimansuchai parallel about 1 mile right; ground cultivated, number of small streams. At 7 miles road divides, the left (south) one now closed by snow; 9 miles village Hasilyn, 50 huts, where escort deserted me and went home. River here, and track enters gorge in mountain. One bold rocky isolated crag, called Kitai Hasilyn, ruined fort just opposite village. Got a guide at last for 3 krans and proceeded; path wound along picturesque wooded slopes from mountains on left bank of stream into which they descend, path indifferent. One descent of 700 feet, about 10 miles, at foot of which cross ravine, small huts of Zerkow, 4,550 feet, and up the stiffest ascent of this road to 5,200 feet. Here, being ahead of caravan, met a bold, handsome-looking Kurd, with scimitar and pistols, lying on grass. Said he was going on business to Sulimania, and that a band of robbers were hanging about road in front, so was waiting for protection, and enquired how many guns our caravan had. It ended by his accompanying us, and my telling off Zemila to cut him down if any attack was made. He disappeared that night, and from what villagers said, was, as I suspected, the leader of a gang. From this skirt along parallel to river. Several small villages sighted, some high up on slopes of mountains on north, and about 16 miles get on openish and cultivated ground.

\* Sheemakai road.

Here road branches, the north *viâ* Mama Kulan, and south *viâ* Alawa,\* both to Sulimania. Little to choose, by all accounts; so, as our new companion recommended the southern, we took the other. Descend slightly to 18, where cross small tributary, and after another mile the river, here called Mashkhal, † flows due north between high, but not very steep, wooded mountains, with a few villages on slopes in distance, and path, leaving open, cultivated, undulating ground, enters small, gently-ascending ravine, with thick copse on both sides. Trees here thoroughly English,—oak, hawthorn, ash, wild roses, brambles, &c.; numbers of common wood pigeons. Emerge into slightly opener ground at 20 miles and skirt along slopes; gentle ascent of hill on left; large valley with village of Dia, past which one path runs to Serambal on right (north). Reach crest at 23 miles, 4,700 feet. Near this found traces, 2 or 3 days old, of large body of horses picketed. Said by guide to have been marauding Hamawands or Jafs. Along ridge for a mile, splendid view. Oak woods and deep valleys on either hand. That on south quite wild, and splendid mass of snow mountains. Kasha about 12,000 feet, and crest about 12 miles south beyond, with thickly-wooded spurs and ravines. On north large, partly cultivated valley; wooded mountains beyond. Cross ravine and wind up to saddle 25½ miles, 4,850 feet, whence roofs of Mama Kulan are visible, about a mile further on. Descend ravine thither; small village, 40 huts, and sort of serai; got a little wattle-and-daub hut on roof to myself. One man forced his way in, saying he was owner, whom I had already seen; took stock of my battery and departed rather hastily when I drew my revolver. So barricaded myself for night.

† Yahara is, I believe, proper name.

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20th March 1882.

6-30 A. M. to 2-45 P. M.

From MAMA KULAN (4,200 feet; 35° 43' N. 45° 48' E.,) to SULIMANIA (2,975 feet).

General Direction—south-west, 21 miles.

Snow again at night, but, as it was melting, made a start. Fully expected an attack from yesterday's companion's gang and agreed with my Patans that, if so, he was to be killed *coûte que coûte*. For a mile follow course of brook, then over spur, cross some cultivation and descend to Tankabwa river, about 100 yards wide, and up which, for about ½ mile, we had to proceed for a ford, which is just *above* a small mill-dam. Several villages high on slopes, cross spur, and at 5 miles tributary with water-mills. Some cultivation and one or two villages here. (At river altitude is 3,150 feet.) Country wilder and ground roughish, with bold crag overhanging road to 8 miles, where there is straight ascent to 3,900 feet. Country now very open, with deep ravine, whose sides are all vineyards, and good

\* Harrikja.

deal plough. This valley,\* which runs south-east and north-west, is bounded on west by the Girjah range, and is about 8 miles wide; on steep slope of hills here are a wonderful lot of vineyards and fruit trees in places where they could never be irrigated. Descend, road wide and gravelly, skirting deep ravine, passing at 10 miles Naodeh (Aga Sheikh Mahomed, a big man for these parts) and Chinginia, and several other villages in sight further off; 12 miles, descent steep, into ravine, and down to Harrik Chai stream, 13 miles, 3,550 feet to 3,170 feet. Thence gradual ascent up small glen, ruins at 13½ miles. Easy ascent to 15 miles, 4,150 feet; thence steep, winding path to crest, 16½ miles, 5,250 feet. East slopes of Girjah have oak scrub (west bare), and number of donkeys bringing it to Sulimania for fuel. Met a few Zaptiehs, with large batch of conscripts. Steep descent to 17 miles, thence down ravine to 18 miles, and over easy, cultivated ground to Sulimania, 20½ miles.

Sulimania is a squarish collection of mud houses, without one single prominent building to break the monotony; and, indeed, exactly resembles the mud walls of nomad tents, with their black camel-hair roofs replaced by flat mud ones. Town said to contain 2,000 houses, but looks rather something like 1,200. Valley in which it stands is 10 to 12 miles wide, between Girjah on east and a lower range, marking the Kara Dag, on west, and runs almost north and south. Got most excellent quarters in private house, whose owner, a Kurd, was absent, being a Modeni, near Sardasht; but to my surprise found my Austrian friend, Dr. Humpfell, was now here, and I had to move over to his quarters. The crops here were beginning to sprout and blossoms to show.

Of all places visited, this stands pre-eminent for the utter state of anarchy which exists, and for the fanaticism of the population and dominant position of the Sheikhs (religious). A few Chaldaean Christians drag on a miserable existence. On one of their number dying lately, he had been disinterred by the populace, dragged through streets, and thrown to the dogs. The Mutaserrif, Achmet Yemar Beg, and the Commandant, Colonel Tewfik Bey, had recently made annual contract for rationing troops for ensuing season at something like three times bazar prices, of course *sharing* profits. This Colonel, an ignorant fanatic (who perpetually told his officers that any soldier asking for his pay should get the stick, and be told that prayer alone was to be thought of, that with money he would only commit follies and imperil his soul), was perpetually at logger-heads with, but somewhat afraid of, Dr. Humpfell, a most devil-me-care character, and who I wonder does not have his throat cut. The second month he was here, on repairing to the Colonel to ask for his pay for preceding, he was curtly told—"We have no money in chest; you can go." Dr. Humpfell rejoined, "It is nothing to me whether you have it in chest, or have to rob some one for it. Here is my contract, signed by the Sultan and Austrian Ambassador. I don't serve for love of you, and if my pay is not forthcoming, I am only too happy. I will start home to-morrow, and report through the Ambassador that you have broken the contract." The pay was produced that afternoon. Shortly before, two soldiers had been sentenced to 100 blows of the stick, one for some small act of disobedience, the other for violating and killing two little

K

children. Dr. Humpfell certified that No. 1 was too ill to endure punishment, but that No. 2 was fit; was sent for and remonstrated with by the Commandant to try and get latter off, "as he says his nimaj four times a day." Here, if you do this, you may do anything with impunity.

Two battalions are quartered here, and one at Kara Dagh. Last year town was besieged for four days by the Hamawands, and would have fallen but for arrival of another battalion. Inhabitants had in first instance invited them, but subsequently feared admitting them. No walls to town, but the narrow lanes easily defended. Dr. Humpfell told me he had recently, when called in to attend

\* Tried as an experiment, and found I could buy Winchesters at Rs. 25 a piece in the bazar, Government property, and Martinis for about Rs. 30. A few imitations are said to be made here, and cartridges re-capped, &c., but I failed to get hold of any of the former, nor saw any of the latter.

one of the Sheikhs, seen a large case full of Martini-Henri cartridges\* (Government) destined for the Hamawands, and reported this to Governor, who took no notice of it; and that within last week small caravans had twice been plundered close to town, and not a soldier dispatched in pursuit. On the 23rd a caravan, 500 strong, which, relying on its numbers, had attempted to come from Kifri, was totally looted, muleteers even stripped of clothes.

The Mutaserrif, who had, the previous day, assured me that all roads in his district were perfectly safe, now recommended either the Kerkuk or the Gulamber

Routes to Baghdad.

Bagh 6 hours, Chemschemel 9 hours, Kerkuk 5 hours. This would, however, have forced me to return from Kerkuk along the already traversed line *via* Kifri, though it is also possible to travel down by the Tigris and Samarah shrine. Few villages on the route, and must trust to Arab camps.

The direct, but little used, route to Baghdad *via* Kifri, is Simat 5 hours, Gor Tapah 5 hours, Bokan 10 hours, Kifri 12 hours; but road is described as very bad, and it traverses the Hamawand country.

The third route, little used, is Moan Girujeh 6 hours, Ghulambar 5 hours, Dizyaish 6 hours, Pirhas 5 hours, Kani Chakal 7 hours (cross the Diala by raft), Khanikin 7 hours. Thence by the usual Kirmanshah road 100 miles to Baghdad. This is through Jaf country, and Mahomed Pasha's safe-conduct indispensable.

The stages given here for Sardasht are different from those given above, *viz.*, Koniamasi 7 hours, Birimp 7 hours, Sardasht 6 hours.

Sulimania routes.

Also Kartshatan 7 hours, Dukan 5 hours, Choi Sandjak 12 hours.

The same Tschervader who gave these, calls it 15 hours to Pengwin, which is near enough, taking me 18, as it did, to do the 48 miles. The peak of Pema Gudrun, 10,000 feet, lies a few miles to north of town. Two or three raised mounds, similar to those called Kilai Iskande and Kilai Nadir Shah in Persia, are visible in valley.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mehmet Ali Beg here, a most favourable specimen of Turk, and hated by Commandant as refusing to certify that one or two rich recruits were unfit for his cavalry regiment (quartered near Mosul) for which he was recruiting.

A great many fox-skins exported hence to Russia. One merchant sent me message not to attempt to move out without at least 40 men as escort, and to insist on Regulars, and not Zaptiehs. It seems believed here that there is a compact with the Wali that the Hamawands are never to resist the Regulars, but may do as they please with the Zaptiehs. Also all the bazars are talking of some quarrel betwixt the Hamawands and some allies, as to the one-third share of loot *due to the Wali*. A detachment of 20 Jaf sowars, belonging to Mahomed Beg, son of Mahomed Pasha, being on point of returning to Gulamber, they, with two Zaptiehs, were ordered to accompany me.

24th March, 1882.

Snowing in morning, so the Jafs said they were not going that day, but suddenly, about 10 A.M., sent to say they were going. Loaded up and started, relying on a letter for Mahomed Beg, which I ostentatiously showed. My two Zaptiehs asked leave to go and get some food, and they would catch me up, so started with the Jafs. Found them the most insolent set of scoundrels I had yet met. Mounted on scraggy mares, with long lances and pistols; most had Martinis

probably, left at home luckily. Several spoke Persian, which they availed themselves of to cross-question me and my followers, as to my object, valuables, &c., &c., one one-eyed ruffian openly thrusting his tongue into his cheek when I spoke of my being on a visit to their Chief. After proceeding 8 miles, no signs of

\* Should mention that I found here, as elsewhere in this country, that a tremendous amount of writing is done, and stamped certificates required for the most trivial things to an extent quite undreamed of. In the Zaptiehs Office, even in an out-of-the-way and utterly uncivilised corner like this, nothing but paper-work seemed to go on.

Zaptiehs, country open, road leading across a succession of low rolling spurs from the Harrikja range; \* the Jafs had mostly straggled on in front, a few keeping back in confab with my followers, when my orderlies came up and advised me to turn back instantly, as these Jafs had just been sounding them as to cutting my throat, saying I was only a Gaiour, and a disgrace for Mahomedans to serve me, Yerula adding in a reflective tone, "If we were not in rather a 'tang' place, I would kill him." We unslung rifles sharp, ordered mules back, and told our friends the first who moved would be shot like a dog, and luckily, the ground hiding us from the rest, we kept them isolated till sufficient start was gained by mules, and shoved back to Sulimania. On going to complain to Governor his greeting was, "He was overjoyed at this, as it gave him the pleasure of seeing me once again," the brute! My Zaptiehs were ordered up, and declared to my face I had given them a rupee each and dismissed them, saying the Jafs sufficed. Subsequently they confessed they were afraid to go. Governor sent that evening to tell me he had dismissed the Zaptiehs, and would send a lieutenant and 15 men to escort me. Humpfell and merchants advised me to go to Kerkuk, and that I would find Lieutenant-Colonel Mehmet Ali at Bayian, who was to be trusted, and would have me safely escorted to Kerkuk. Further, that it

† There is a line of telegraph for Baghdad vid Kifri and Kerkuk to Mosul, and the north, branches to Rowanduz and Sulimania; also from Baghdad to Teheran, Tabriz, Souj Boulak. At large offices messages in French are taken, at the smaller only in Turkish or Persian, according to territory. The Anglo-Indian line through Persia is quite distinct, and not allowed to receive messages in that territory.

my letters, he was aware of my presence.

25th March 1882.

6 A.M. to 1 P.M.

FROM SULIMANIA TO MAMA KULAN, 21 miles.

As by daybreak, which was cloudy and hazy, there were no signs of promised escort, and the same Zaptieh whom the Governor swore he had discharged for deserting me, appeared and said that he and one other only had been warned to attend me, I started my baggage off with my orderlies to take the back track to Penguin, a course I had determined on in the event of any further tricks of the Governor, feeling far safer alone amongst the Kurds than in these nominally semi-civilised districts. Waited till 7 A.M. without any one else appearing or any news of the Zaptiehs, so cantered off, overtaking my baggage near crest of Girjah range, where a wood-cutter told us all the bazar were talking of our "escape from the Jafs," as he termed it. Reached Mama Kulan without molestation.

26th March 1882.

5 A.M. to 2 P.M.

FROM MAMA KULAN TO PENGWIN.

Sent off letter by villager to Banah Chief, asking him to send notice of my coming to the Murivan one. Marched 5 A.M. to try and clear the thicker copses before travellers would be expected to traverse them,—the only difference in route being that at 18 miles from Penguin at small ravine, turned off to left, fording the Yahara, which was now passable, and continued along the slopes over right bank by an easier, but in one part artificial and somewhat dangerous, track, to opposite village of Hasilyn, where re-crossed to left bank and rejoined former road.

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Put up most hospitably by the Modeni, Achmet Beg, who informed me that an express had come to him from the Governor of Sulimania, the day after my arrival there, for an exact account of my doings, movements, &c., &c., to be reported upon at once.

27th March 1882.

6-15 A.M. to 12-15 P.M.

From PENGWIN (4,750 feet) to MURIVAN (4,725 feet).

General Direction—south-east, 18 miles.

Five or six Tufangchis accompanied me. Up small stream which flows through village for a mile, 5,050 feet, then descend another small stream, emerging 3 miles near village Ardana at south side of Bimansuchai valley, which is here 4 miles wide and flat; at 4 miles cross small stream, frontier; 5 miles, small spur. Deserted fort, Kula Tapa, 6 miles; 2 miles left (north), ruined fort of Mirawar; 2 miles further north-east, large snow ranges, Paizad and Bardarash, to east; 8½ miles low spur, and at 10 miles roads divide, west one to Ahroman, 2 days, the east one to Murivan, valley marshy; and 11 miles head lake, into which both from north and south ends the streams flow. Said to be an outlet on west side, but could perceive no gap in the chain of mountains, along slopes of which 5 or 6 fair-sized villages are dotted, and which descend almost into lake. About 13 miles a track branches off to Zif, 3 hours, belonging to Shahzada Azam Beg. Large

\* A good deal of ploughing going on; ploughs followed by large numbers of white gulls.

and low spur, at 16 miles, skirt rocky slope of edge of lake, and reach Murivan, 18 miles. A small fort, square, with flanking bastions and 8 field guns, is here close to village, rather a modern construction. Put up most hospitably by the Naib, Mirza Abdulla Paizulla, a Kurd Civil Governor of district, and the Persian Commandant, who has 10 gunners and 30 Sirbaz as garrison. Shot 6 ducks in marshes. The Jafs are expected here 20 days hence, on their annual migration upwards to the highland plateaux, but owing to the damage done by them last year, they are to be stopped, 1 battalion of Regulars coming from Sihna for purpose, and with a corps of 1,000 Tufangchis of district and some guns are going to close the passes—a good job too.†

† For the only time in course of journey heard of the existence of lions, my host declaring there were several, as well as bear, &c., in the Ahroman hills, or rather mountains, which from here seem very rocky and precipitous, but that, owing to season and snow, sport would be now impossible.

As a general rule, there are too many guns in these regions for game to have a chance.

28th March 1882.

6 A.M. to 2 P.M.

From MURIVAN (4,725 feet; 46° 19' E., 35° 31' N.)

To SHEIKH ATTAR (5,750 feet; 46° 35' E., 35° 35' N.)

General Direction—east, 21 miles.

Lovely grazing ground throughout these valleys. Accompanied by the naib, to whom gave watch, with about 30 Kurds as escort, of whom I with difficulty got rid of the chief lot. For 6 miles skirt foot of low range on left (north), 1½ hours to north is village called Gul Suzan Salassi, celebrated for its onions, which are sent to Teheran. Pass couple of small villages; tremendous crowd of storks' nests; at 6 miles descend, crossing brook at 7 miles; thence over spur and down to right bank of Girdalan, which here turns through gorge due south; mountains here descend to river-bank; 9 miles picturesque brick bridge, 3 arches, so dilapidated fit for footmen only; very high, bold, granite cliff overhangs it on north; thence skirt up valley of tributary, the main stream going in at 9½ miles up lovely glen, well wooded, with brush wood and creepers. Fourteen miles relieved escort, and 15 miles reached foot of Garan Pass, 5,500 feet, zigzag and rocky in parts, to crest 16½ miles, 6,900 feet, thence view of a perfect sea of snow-peaks to the front as far as eye could reach,—Sultan Achmet to north-east, and Sirkamal to south, being about the most prominent.‡ Descent steepish to 17½ miles, 6,000 feet, thence along edge of small stream, with a little plough, to Sheikh Attar, 20½ miles, a wretched collection of about 20 poverty-stricken hovels.

‡ Trees and shrubs cease entirely on east slopes, where we have a good deal of shale cropping up on hills, which look as if they contained minerals.

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Camped on roof of one. Villagers here complained much of exactions of Governors and of damage by Jafs and other Ilyats.

29th March 1882.

6 A.M., to 3 P.M.

From SHEIKH ATTAR (5,750 feet) to BARODAR (6,725 feet).

General Direction—east, 27 miles.

Up ravine, north-east of north, and ascend to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to 6,125 feet, circling round hill on east village, thence descend by brook to 3 miles, near where strike right bank of Katawal stream, which here turns due south, and skirt up its right bank to  $5\frac{1}{2}$ , where cross. A ford, barely passable just now, and road strikes off south-east over hills from 4th mile, for Kalaju; cross a couple of tributaries; at 7 miles path bears off north-east for Doissa, 7 hours, and another due south to Kalaju about 11 miles, and a second at 12 miles north-east to Doissa. Open valley to north-east with much plough on slopes, which are easy. Artificial mound Kilai Nadir Shah in gorge here, 13 miles over low spur, descending into valley of small brook, tributary of Kalaju river. Over another spur, 6,850 feet, descending at 17 miles into a new valley with small stream, 6,500 feet; where taken needlessly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles up glen to Dera Khushkar for convenience of guides, who wished a relief, they explaining this was end of Murivan district. Ahang Peak due south. Followed back down one and up another stream, and over saddle, 21 miles, 7,350 feet; descend to 7,150 feet, and down side of stream, south-east, to 25 miles, whence you tack due north up another glen to Barodar, 27 miles, 6,725 feet, 50 houses. Got fair quarters for self and followers in big room of mud hut. Lots of sheep hereabouts.

30th March 1882.

6 A.M. to 2-45 P.M.

From BARODAR (6,725 feet) to SIHNA (5,300 feet).

General Direction—south-east, 30 miles.

Heavy snow at night, which had not extended far to east, however; road easy, retraced steps 2 miles to 25th mile of yesterday's march. About 3 miles stream flows south, and road circles to left and ascends course of another stream, ascending by spur from 6,550 feet to 7,300 feet in about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. Thence steepish descent into bed of stream flowing east, 6,925 feet, and work along banks, crossing and soon after re-crossing to left bank at 10 miles. Here road to Sihna branches off south-west up valley of bigish tributary, and a mill and some other signs of inhabitants appear. From Dera Khushkar it had been wild and barren; sheep only signs of life; 12 miles re-cross to right bank, and 15 miles stream flows east under Doissa, a village of 200 houses, whilst road bears more south-east. It is noticeable that this stream flows, if native accounts, which were rather mixed, are correct, into the Kizil Uzen, which falls into the Caspian, the only one I met with that did so in my journey,—all others, except the few flowing into Lake Urmia, being tributaries of the Tigris and Karun, and falling into the Persian Gulf. A high range, Kalwaya, to north, across which the Sakuz road leads.

Another Kilai, Nadir Shah,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of road, ascend open ground, picturesque Kalakan peaks east, 2 miles to about 15 miles, 6,250 feet; descend and cross a new brook flowing east; at 20 miles couple of villages, and at 23-24 miles a couple more brooks which join just below, and on banks of which are some gardens, and Arena and Nouera, villages, higher up. Ascend to 26 miles, 5,900 feet; then open cultivated valley and gentle descent to Sihna, 30 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles. High peaks of Owada and Owa Anga to west, whose spurs fall to the town. High range, about 10,000 feet, Dooshand, to south-east. Put up by some Native Christians; good house. Sihna, capital of the Province of Kurdistan, has about 4,000 houses, though I have heard it called 7,000. It is under the Zilla Sultan, at Ispahan, and has another Shahzada as Governor (name lost), now absent, and Naib Mustafa Kuli Khan at present in authority. A very handsome building, on small rising ground, in middle of town, is half barrack, half palace. The former Governor, Ali Akbar Khan, Kurd, is at Teheran in a sort of surveillance. Visited his son Sulieman Khan, who has a fairly large house and was very civil. There are about

Sihna 35° 21' N., 47° 18' E.  
Altitude 5,300 feet.

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40 Christian families here, and a Bishop, or Khalifa as he is called, but he lives in rather native style. Garrison of two regiments and some guns here; usual armaments and want of uniform. Government sent large procession of servants to escort me about when visiting, and who naturally expected *baksheesh*.

Sihna is especially famous for carpets. These are generally rugs. Size of a large hearth-rug, 9 by 4½ feet, but sometimes in long rolls, 18 by 4 feet. The rough, and in some respects nicest looking, are cheapest, Rs. 6 to 8; whilst a thick and heavy, but rather smooth kind, are about 100 to 150 krans, *i. e.*, Rs. 40 to Rs. 60 each. The durable nature of their colouring is entirely owing to using mineral dyes. They are made by the Hyats, or wandering tribes.

Routes from Sihna.

SIHNA TO		SIHNA TO	
Kirgowa . . .	3 hours.	Takt Sulimani . . .	5 hours.
Dehgulan . . .	3 "	Karmiran . . .	5 "
Kusba . . .	6 "	Daka Kulsan . . .	3 "
Hanakussi . . .	7 "	Kirmanshah . . .	3 "
Hamadan . . .	5 "		

A summer road direct to Zohab exists, but was declared difficult from snow for another month, *viz.*,—

Takt Sulimani . . .	5 hours.	Shahin . . .	5 hours.
Rowansar . . .	4 "	Junaro . . .	3 "
Kilaidair . . .	3 "	Goura . . .	4 "
Mira Kurrind . . .	4 "	Zohab . . .	5 "
		TOTAL . . .	33 hours.

Am still doubtful whether it was really owing to natural difficulties or to fears of the inhabitants that I was told this was now impracticable, both by the Naib, Suleiman Khan, and the Christians. No objects of interest in town, two blue-inlaid minars alone worthy of attention.

1st April 1882.

6-30 A.M. to 3-30 P.M.

FROM SIHNA TO TAKT SULIMANI.

General Direction—south, 34 miles.

Cross stream bounding town, and some vineyards. Small defile 2 miles, and descend towards river, Shirwan or Dyala,\* which ford at 5 miles, stirrup-deep; thence passing several small villages along river-bank, skirting low shaley spurs from Dooshand chain, and always within ½ mile of stream; at 7 miles, cultivated valley and three villages on opposite bank (west), and isolated hill, Kilai Amurula Khan (ruined), said to have spring close to summit. Fourteen miles, Kilai Nadir Shah, said to be hollow; could only find smallish cave. Twenty-one miles, river, here called Rohawa, disappears through gorge to west. Cross a couple of spurs, 5,125 feet. About 23 miles some bold peaks on right (west); descend slightly cultivated valley; skirt small stream to 27 miles, where it joins Gobaro river, and flows due west towards Sitargu, a prominent mountain 5 miles in that direction. Thence skirt up the right bank of Gobaro, to which spurs of mountains descend. Thirty-two miles, sharp ascent over spur, ruined fort, and wind chiefly downwards over another small spur to Takt Sulimani, 33½ miles.

\* Called Rakama here.

2nd April 1882.

6 A.M. to 3-30 P.M.

FROM TAKT SULIMANI (4,850 feet; 47° 5' E.) to KAMIRAN.

33 miles.

One or two nice-looking villages in glens across river of the Sirkub and Yamunan Mountain on west. Close to village saw unmistakeable coal cropping out. Continue along right bank, nasty path and precipice about ¼ mile;

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at 2 miles descend and cross stream by wooden bridge and along spurs; some height above left bank a good deal of oak scrub hereabouts, and numerous donkeys taking it to Sihna for firewood. At 7 miles descend and skirt river. A few villages, and signs of cultivation. Twelve miles main stream comes in from east, and path of bank leads to Pir Mogan; 16½ miles, up to which road has skirted river, road to Juanro branches off to west. Cross stream soon after, knee-deep. About 19 miles, broad valley; village Asawal, &c., to west. Skirt up side valley

Showery day.

to north-east at 21 miles, 5,900 feet, and at 23 miles crest of saddle, 6,500 feet, rather deep snow. Thence descend, skirt right bank of stream to 28 miles, where cross wide valley of Loabush to west. Re-cross to right bank at 31 miles by few huts called Bia, and at 33 miles Kamiram. Country here wide open valley, with sharp rocky ranges. Kalam Sheikh Garran 6 miles east, and others on all sides, 8 or 10 miles apart. Sort of caravan-serai here; very wet afternoon.

Had intended to strike west *via* Juanro, whence Tamirama 5 hours, Takana Shu 5 hours, Jagiran 5 hours, Zohab 5 hours, was one road open, and a second joined in to main road near Karind, but was dissuaded by villagers, who declared it was folly to attempt it without strong escort, and that both Ali Akhbar Khan at Rowansar, and an Aga near Juanro, who had about 40 sowars, would undoubtedly waylay me. So decided for Kirmanshah.

3rd April 1882.

10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

From KAMIRAM (5,275 feet) to KAKASAN (4,825 feet).

22 miles.

Rained heavily all night, started late in consequence, and great doubts being expressed if rivers would prove fordable.

Flat road whole way; ford stream 3 miles, girth-deep, and at 7 miles main

\* Karasu.

stream, \* just at entrance of tolerably wide gorge, through very precipitous rocky hills of 1,200 feet. Large valley extends eastward; numerous small villages, whence comes this main stream. In looking for ford got into quicksand in middle of river, under water, and escaped with difficulty when almost quite exhausted. Lost sketch-

Sketch-book with notes, &c., float-  
ed off down stream.

book, and, what with snow, water, and furious rain that beat almost horizontally in face, had rather miserable day of it. Eleven miles emerge in wide valleys, 4 miles wide, dead flat, and apparently cultivated, but almost under water; a few small villages and old fort on left; at 17 miles pass detached hill; 19 miles strike river-bank again, Karasu. Skirt along this on left bank, one or two side streams almost unfordable, and into small village of Kakasan, with ruined mud fort at 22 miles, dead beat with cold. Put up in small hovel with several calves, lambs, and six or seven of the family, and change before an admiring audience. One curious minar 6 miles due west of this.

4th April 1882.

6-30 A.M. to 3-30 P.M.

From KAKASAN to KIRMANSHAH (5,150 feet; 47° 13' E., 34° 19' N.).

General Direction—south, 32 miles.

City of Kirmanshah clearly visible, south by south-west about 15 miles, but road makes long detour. Due east to foot of hills for 5 miles, one deep

† Parsa Mountain, 5 miles, south-  
east, said to contain a lot of game.

nulla to ford on way. Taki valley and curious spring below.† Lots of duck about marsh just below it. Then along foot of hills, east side, passing several villages to 14 miles. Cross spur, 5,500 feet, through grassy basin in hills, and emerge by gorge, 18 miles. Here a road branches to right, direct to city, and river crossed by boat. Continued on parallel to course of river; at 22 miles pass Ferras. Strong springs, gardens, and in gorge, near site of ancient Tak-i-Bostan, 23 miles, ruined rampart, quadrilateral, regularly laid out like Niniveh mounds; 25 miles Kila Amandia,

where Shah dresses before entering city, and at 28 miles strike bridge and line of telegraph of the Teheran road. Brick bridge, 6 arches. Thence due west, flat cultivated ground to city gates, 32 miles. Was met by servant of English Agent, Vakil Aga Mahomed Khan.

Kirmanshah has 4,600 houses and fairly built with large bazárs; stands in broad valley, hills near on south, but on north about 10 miles distant, and this valley, chiefly cultivated, extends 12 or 15 miles east, in direction of Teheran. The Karasu, on whose banks are some large gardens and a palace, is a tributary of the Karun. Some handsome gardens and summer-houses in ravines to south of city, and large graveyards to west.

The Governor, Shazada Abdulla Mirza, Hushnat-ul-Doulah, who is to be relieved shortly, was most civil to me.\* Our Agent here, Aga Mahomed Khan, is a man of greatest consequence, and large landowner, having 30 or 40 villages, some said near 100. Fine-looking fellow of 45, has been to Constantinople, and intends visiting India. Was lodged in a capital separate house of his, with courtyard and fountain. Dined that night in very civilised fashion at his house, where I met Surtip Bolair, a French general in Persian service for 35 years, formerly an engineer officer; had served in Algeria, and was at siege of Herat; was now returning to Ispahan after reporting on frontier.

Aga Mahomed Khan has a book, started by his father, in which he makes his guests (and apparently he entertains every single European who has ever passed), commencing with Sir. F. Williams and others, of the Boundary Commission in pre-Crimean days, enter their names. Would strongly recommend any future travellers to obtain introduction through him to the neighbouring chiefs, to nearly all of whom he is well known. The Souj Boulak muleteers, who had accompanied me to Sulimania, there volunteered to come on to this for 110 beshliks, *i. e.*, Rs. 55; and now engaged to Baghdad for Rs. 50 for the four.

At Tak-i-Bostan, 8 miles north-east of city, in mountains, are four rock-carvings, doubtless well known, though I do not remember having seen any mention of them. Two are figures of court ceremonies, and two hunting ones—deer and pig. The king, who is always depicted as four times the size of other mortals, in the former on horseback at full speed discharging arrows, and in latter in a boat doing the same. Line of elephants beating the game to him. Most spiritedly executed.

Rather fine bazárs here, and many European goods for sale. Main line especially of pilgrims, for traffic betwixt Persia and Baghdad. Besides the main road *viâ* Sir-i-Pul and Khanikin, another track, seldom used, *viâ* Mendali, † exists, but there are no villages for three marches, and just now district is unsafe. A Kullhour Kurd, Ruga Ali Khan, of Goawar, near Kulago, having for robbery been sent prisoner to Teheran, his brother, Mand Ali Khan, with 100 horse, infests that district, in which he has burned all villages, and retires across frontier if threatened. Had arranged to attempt that route, and Aga Mahomed Khan promised me some horsemen for it, but, at last moment, partly from the change of Governor being likely to cause a few rows, and partly from continued rain, which without tents would, as it was yet excessively cold, have made it rather trying, he dissuaded me.

7th April 1882.

FROM KIRMANSHAH TO MAHIDASHT (5,050 feet).

General Direction—west, 18 miles.

[N. B.—The road from Kirmanshah to Baghdad having been fully reported on, I give brief notes only.]

Heavy rain and hail on evening (6th). Sent on kit, breakfasted with the Aga, and trotted on. Low hills for 8 miles, where cross ridge, several small villages and cultivation in hollows. At 11, into large open plain, numerous villages, no trees, chiefly cultivated. Mahidasht, 17½ miles, few huts, and tolerable caravan-serai. Road follows telegraph line whole way to Baghdad.

† KIRMANSHAH TO	KIRMANSHAH TO
Mahidasht (a)	Mahidasht.
Kulago (a)	Harasan.
Goawar (b)	Chadawar.
Zirna (b)	Hiawana.
Chamsurat (b)	Diawara.
Mendali (Turkish) (a)	Anlawali.
Warazro (b)	Thence three
Yakohia (a)	stages to
Khan Agam (a)	Mendali.
Baghdad (a)	(Luristan.)
(a) Supplies.	
(b) No supplies.	

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8th April 1882.

5-45 A.M. to 1-45 P.M.

FROM MAHIDASHT TO HARUNABAD.

General Direction—south-west.

Muddy; 4 miles strike foot hills, southern limit of valley; oak scrub here; firewood for Kirmanshah. Here met tribe of Ilyats migrating towards east, Sheikh Ishmaili Kurds. Insolent-looking lot of blackguards, rather handsome but bold-looking women, large flocks of sheep, few horses, not many rifles visible,—about a hundred fighting men in all. Through defile gentle ascent, formed by south-west boundary line of valley which stretches north, far as eye can see, closing in to south chain to 10 miles, where emerge into a plain 5,750 feet. Steep scarp, facing south-west to both sides of road; old wall here. Likely spot for a Persian force to make a stand. Here passed about thirty sowars, followed by small bands, sixty or eighty in all, of excited villagers, Kulhour Kurds, two of whose number had been murdered last night by the Sheikh Ishmaili, and whose total extermination they vowed; save the sowars, they were badly armed. The servant\* sent by the

\* Yair Ali.

Aga to help me recommended our pushing on, or it would be risky for the baggage, so I was unable to see the fun.

9th April 1882.

6 A.M. to 1-30 P.M.

FROM HARUNABAD (4,800 feet) to KARIND (5,350 feet).

General Direction—north-west, 19 miles.

Never heard result. Fourteen miles cross low hills, attempt at regular road-blasting, &c.; 17 miles wind through hillocks and broken ground; at 19 miles low spur, turn to right, round spur at 20 miles, and Haranabad 22 miles. Large valley south-west, chain here 4 miles off. General direction of valley north-west. Dirty serai; put up in private hut. Touch of fever from my ducking of the other day. A Kilai Iskander, over village, Fort of Mahomed Hussein Khan here in ruins; deserted 1½ years ago by Persians. Up fairly open valley 2 miles wide. Little cultivation, gangs of armed men watching sheep. Oak scrub on range (Kohyar) to south-west 10 miles. After crossing low downs, turn corner of Kutrahabad village; thence wider and better-cultivated valley, rising to Karind,

† Karind 46° 14' E., 34° 16' N.  
Stages from Karind: Gowara, Chyunush, Dehdar, Kirmanshah Ilyats of thereabouts are Jafs and Maranis.

19 miles, terraced, over gorge, foot of bold picturesque scarp, northern side of valley about 12 miles distant; road, on which were a lot of Ilyats migrating, leads through gorge to Gowara.† This is capital of Karind Kurds, who, like the Kulhours, are, exceptionally to the common rule, Shiabs; 1,000 houses, and an imposing but ruinous and dirty serai. Good quarters in private house. On these caravan roads nearly all inhabitants seem to be sort of lodging-house keepers, and though welcoming you as guests, expect payment of supplies, and small present for use of house. Chief man here is Kurrim Khan. The Chief of place is now hukamat of Siripul, to guard it against the Hamawands. When first ordered last year, on his representing that the Persians here had only muzzle-loaders to oppose to the Martinis of these tribes, was at first imprisoned, but, thanks to mediation of our Vakil, released and put in command of the frontier.

10th April 1882.

5-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M.

FROM KARIND TO SIRIPUL (2,300 feet).

General Direction—north-west, 29 miles.

Continue up valley 8 miles, 5,300 feet, enter bed of Nuroula stream; wooded rocky cliffs on both sides, pass Iskander's Fort and Yurabya or Mian Lek, 15 miles. A lot of Sirbaz in it. Passed Hamawand and Lak Ilyats, some of whom had Martinis, eyed my battery very hard; heard the term "Martili," which is a generic name for breech-loaders in these parts, frequently repeated, and a knot were evidently undecided whether to follow us, but from their proceedings were apparently short of ammunition and did

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not come on. Seventeen miles stream cuts through deep chasm to south-west and well-constructed zigzag road, modern, takes you down from 4,100 to 3,150 feet, at Pat-i-Tak, a serai about 20 miles; a good many travellers putting up here. Regular change into spring at once. Above buds barely showing, here waving corn, green willows, wild flowers, and *flies*. Several caravans here. Mountains wild, bold, and rocky. This pass, midway up which is the Tak-i-Shirin, a Roman-looking arch, would undoubtedly be the first strong position for a Persian army on the defensive, and is geographically in some respects the natural frontier. Down right bank, crossing stream at 25 miles, and through razor-backed gorge, and round serai, 26½ miles. Large corn-fields on every side, but inhabitants all dwellers in black tents. No regular villages. Wild

\* Right bank of Hulwan river. rocky mountains to north; Siripul\* bridged, 29 miles. Few huts and filthy serai, crammed with Sirbaz, with whom I put up,—the Surtip, Ali Morad Khan Karindi, being in camp about a mile off; 2 battalions and 6 guns here, but antiquated armaments.

11th April 1882.

5-30 A.M. to 12 noon.

From SIRIPUL (2,300 feet) to KASH-I-SHIRIN (1,700 feet).

General Direction—west, 18 miles.

Corn-fields and black tents to 3¼ miles; escorted by captain to Sheikh Sherif, 3 miles; thence 6 sowars, over rolling gravel, undulations more or less parallel to Hulwan all day. Some sticky clay in hollows, bare and deserted; just the place for marauders. At 7, 11, 12½, and 14 miles are fortified towers, newly built, or camps of Sirbaz, holding ground, much as we did the Khyber, since massacres of last year.

About 13 miles, curious, low, sharp, paralld ridges north-west, where road passes through second of these, are remains of aqueduct. This, I see, is described in Route Book as "wall of Cyclopean masonry containing two rocky mountains." The ridges so designated are not 20 feet high. From 15

† Passed Moradi Ilyats on march. to 17 miles pass ruins of ancient city.† At 18 miles fort and villages of Kasr-i-Shirin. Large camp and guns here—about 1,200 men, I should guess. Small village, 80 houses, on right bank of Hulwan. Got good quarters in private house. Had long talk with a Sirbaz on road. His 32nd year of service. Declared he felt great friendship both for English and Russians.

12th April 1882.

6 A.M. to 12-30 P.M.

From KASH-I-SHIRIN (1,700 feet; 45° 40' E., 34° 30' N.)

To KHANIKIN (1,250 feet; 45° 30' E., 34° 20' N.).

General Direction—south-west, 16 miles.

A dozen Jaf horsemen, with lances and Martinis, sent by the Surtip's orders, accompanied me. Road after winding close to river for 1½ miles leaves it, and leads over gravelly, undulating, broken ground, with most lovely grass and pasture. Enormous masses of sweet-scented clover, knee-deep, untouched by animals, as all hurry over this district. About 3 miles tower and camp of Sirbaz, and at 8 miles village of Sabyi, Persian frontier post, merely a loop-holed mud wall, with a burned village round it, destroyed by the Hamawands last year. Lovely valley to south-east, apparently deserted. Escorted hence by frontier guard, Kurds of the Karind Chief's particular lot,‡ armed with

‡ Hussein Ali his Naib here. Werndles, reaching Turkish frontier; tower, with Zaptieh guard, an excellently built affair. At 11 miles small fort, Kila Kushla, also garden 1 mile north on same ridge. Undulating pasture to 15 miles, where see gardens, very large new building and enclosure, and town of Khanikin at sixteen miles. Stopped and had to pay 2 krans per head, receiving no end of stamped receipts in return, as quarantine dues. No medical examination required; merely had to pay, and there is an end. Also had to pay 2 krans per head as passport fees! Formerly large bridge, now in ruins, several serais and coffee-houses. Forded stream, passing some lovely gardens, mass of blossom, and put up in brand-new serai on south-west of town, unused and clean. Lovely evening. Seven hundred

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houses. Governor and two companies Regulars and Zaptiehs. Country now merging into plain, hills low and easy, climate quite different, and a few palm trees beginning to show in gardens.

13th April 1882.

5-15 A.M. to 12 noon.

From KHANIKIN (1,250 feet) to KIZIL ROBAT (900 feet; 45° 14' E., 34°, 10' N.).

General Direction—south-east, 18½ miles.

Open corn-fields, tents, Jebel Hamrin, stony gentle slopes at 7 miles, 1,425 feet, then undulating, deserted; another ridge of Jebel Hamrin at 12½ miles, 1,200 feet, gentle descent, lovely pasture, masses of brilliant scarlet poppies and buttercups. Seventeen miles small canal, hence water-cuts and cultivation to Kizil Robat.

Eight Zaptiehs, starting daybreak, patrol till they meet similar lot from next

At four miles, road to Mendali, stage, close to Dyala, which is much flooded; Jaf country beyond. News in that Mahomed Pasha, Jaf Chief, had been murdered by a young cousin, Aziz Beg, whose father he had killed years ago. Surprised and stabbed in 16 places at night, and camp looted. Mahomed Pasha, his son (of Gulamber), had attacked Aziz Beg's lot, killing 25, but losing 15. Both preparing for further fighting, Aziz Beg's faction, though weaker, being richer. Two serais 500 houses in village; got fair quarters in room on roof.

14th April 1882.

5-15 A.M. to 11-30 A.M.

From KIZIL ROBAT (900 feet) to SHAHRABAN (700 feet; 45° 4' E., 34° 0' N.) (assumed).

General Direction—south-west.

Sun now too high to take double meridional attitude with sextant. Last D. meridional attitude of sun obtained on 13th being (corrected) 129° 16'.

Open and cultivated to 7 miles, then ascent, gravel ridge, easy slopes; as usual Jebel Hamrin. Cross at 8 miles, whence Shahraban is visible, 1,000 feet, then broken earth and sandstone ravines to 11 miles, then open; water-cuts and cultivation at 12 miles; deep canal brick bridge at 12½ miles; Shahraban 17 miles. From crest, which, as well as the ridges of yesterday (Jebel Hamrin), all run south-east and north-west, Deli Abas is visible 8 or 9 miles north. But little or no water this march. As yesterday, patrols of 6 Zaptiehs, escort and change midway; 300 houses, tremendous number of storks' nests, good quarters in serai, upper room; 2 or 3 other serais.

15th April 1882.

4-45 A.M. to 1-30 P.M.

From SHAHRABAN to BAKUBA (700 feet; 44° 47' E., 33° 43' N.).

General Direction—south-west, 26 miles.

A few gardens on west of town, then entire march open, flat, tolerably cultivated ground; a good many, but seldom deep, water-cuts and palm groves, for which the 34th degree seems the northern limit, marking out villages exactly as in marches near Jedaidah. About 20 miles, larger groves on right (west) mark River Dyala. Bakuba quite hidden in walled palm groves, which enter at about 25 miles; 800 houses, covered bazár, capital quarters in cleanish serai, of the usual pattern along the Hillah road, but surrounded with gardens, lots of fleas. Three serais here; 300 of the above houses are inhabited by Zaptiehs; Mutaserrif, Hassan Effendi.

16th April 1882.

4-45 A.M. to 12-15 P.M.

From BAKUBA (700 feet) to BAGHDAD.

General Direction—south by south-west, 33 miles.

A mile of streets and lanes, cross Dyala by bridge of 12 boats, skirt right bank to 4 miles, near where cross remains of large Nahrwan canal, and strike across desert, road scarce distinguishable but for telegraph; mirage all around.



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Only provisions I ever carried was tea, trusted to villages for rest. One Crimean bucket-shaped zinc canteen more than sufficed for whole party. Took tea before starting, and chuppatties and handful of dates or raisins in holster, and no regular meal till after arrival—much the best plan. Best kit I found was, flannel shirt, serge blouse, cotton cord breeches, knickerbocker stockings, and either shooting-boots and puttis or "Field" boots. Useful to have pair of easily-fitting ones, and of slippers adapted for walking for paying visits, when shoes have to be removed. Wore a posteen in cold weather, an Arab Abba which hid all, and head-dress of country, fez, kula, or turban. It is necessary to have some undress uniform for visits of ceremony.

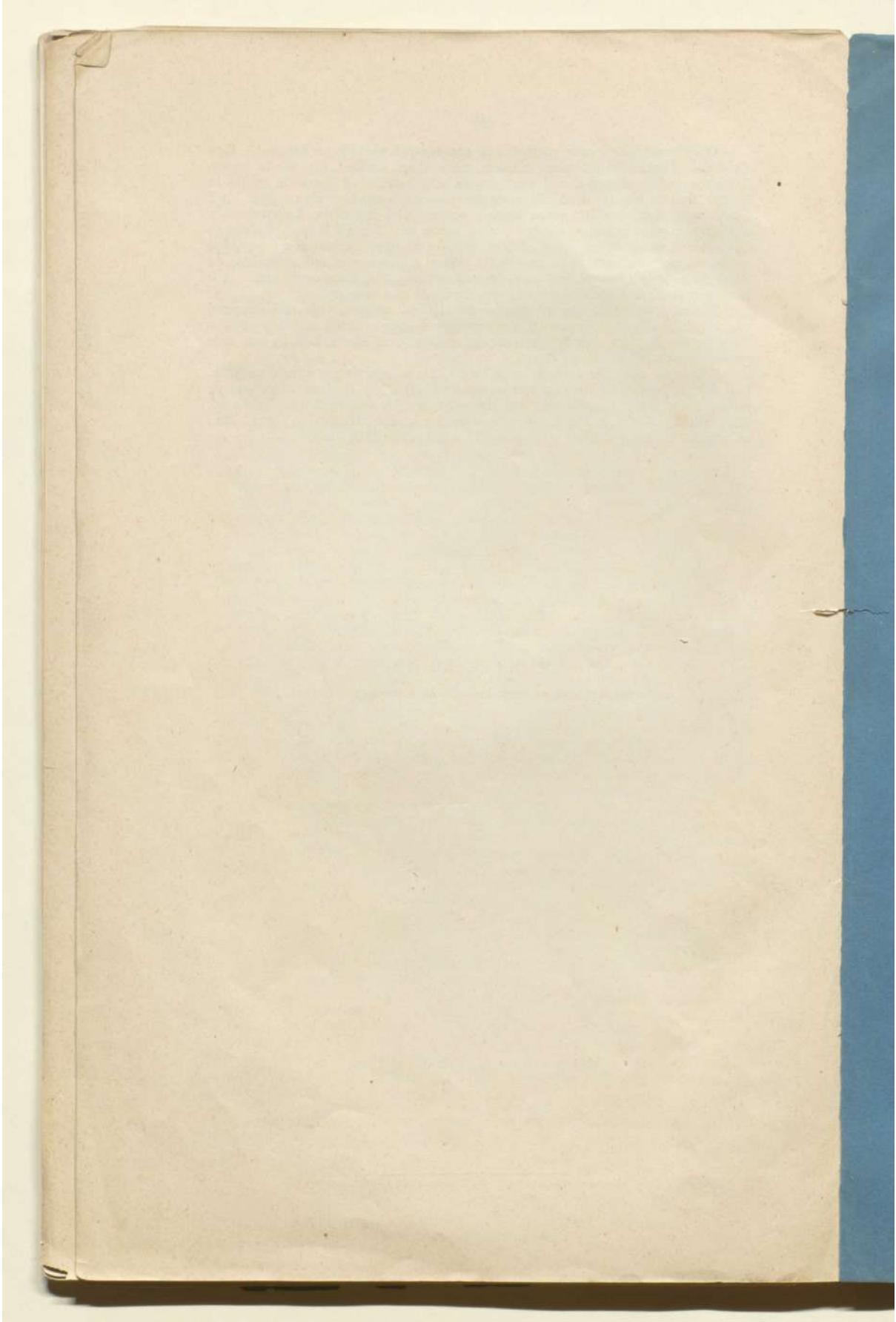
Found hunting-saddle, pic-nic head-stall and wallets, with pad strapped on, on which the cloak is carried, the most serviceable. Tried military saddles for my orderlies, but they had no one advantage over above, and in one case gave soreback, when mine did not.

Sailed on 23rd for Busreh by *Khalifa*, 2 P.M., arriving at sunset on 25th. Sailed in British India steamer *Pachumba*, 28th, 10 A.M.; *Bushire* 29th, early; sailing 4 P.M., 30th; *Lingah* early 2nd May; *Bunder Abbas* early 3rd; *Jask*, 5 A.M., 4th; *Muscat*, 5 A.M. to 2 P.M., 5th; *Gwadur*, 1 P.M., 6th; *Kurrachi*, 7 P.M., 7th; sailing 5 P.M., 9th; arrived at *Bombay* 11 P.M. on the 11th May.

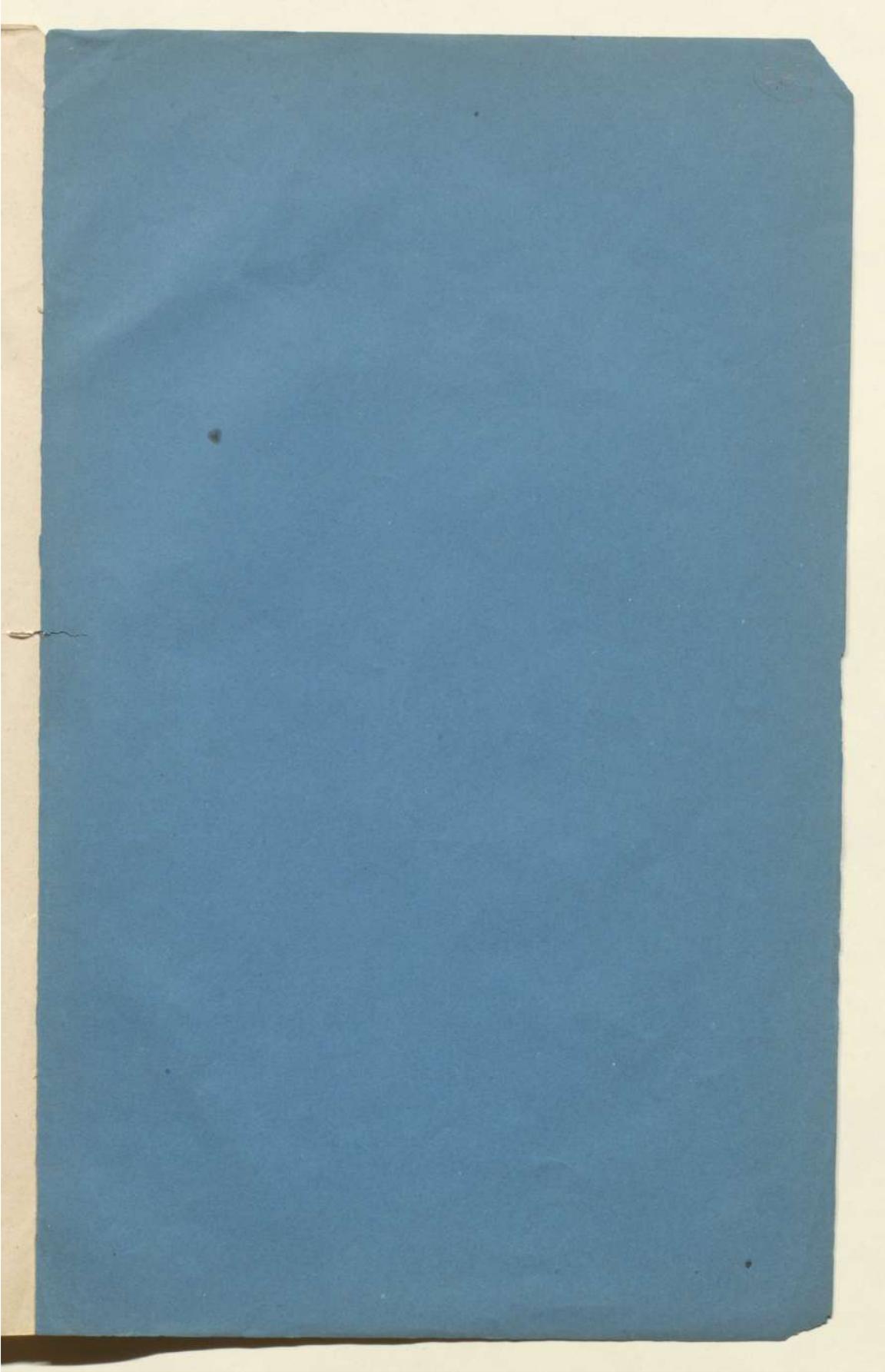
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"مذكرات لرحلة عبر كردستان في شتاء ١٨٨١-١٨٨٢." [خلفي] (٥٦/٥٦)

