

**XIV.- JOURNEY THROUGH A PART OF ARMENIA AND ASIA MINOR, IN THE
YEAR 1835. COMMUNICATED BY JAMES BRANT, ESQ. HIS MAJESTY'S CONSUL
AT ERZ-RÚM. JULY, 1836.**

James Brant

Asia Minor consists of a high mass of mountains, supporting a table land which presents a succession of extensive and fertile plains, running in general east and west. In the highest parts rise the great rivers of Armenia, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia, the Kur or *Cyrus*, which waters the whole of the province of Georgia, and receives numerous tributaries from Caucasus; the Aras (*Araxes*), which flows round the foot of Mount Ararat and joining the Kur, falls into the Caspian; and the Jórúk¹, or *Acampsis*; the Chár-shambah Şú, or² *Iris*, -and the Kızıl Irmák³ or *Halys*, the largest river of Asia Minor, which traverses, in a circuitous route, nearly the entire breadth of the Peninsula; the three last flow into the Black Sea; - the Tigris and Euphrates, which, after a course of upwards of a thousand miles, enclosing the large and celebrated plain of Mesopotamia, now Al-Jezírah, unite and fall into the Persian Gulf. On its northern side, this mountain-tract overlooks the Black Sea, on the south, the Mediterranean and the plains of Mesopotamia and Syria. Between the Black Sea and the base of the mountains, there is generally a strip of level land of greater or less breadth, which sometimes, as in the province of Jáník, widens into broad plains. Where these plains do not occur, the mountains, at a distance of about 12 hours, or 24 miles from the sea, attain their extreme height of between 6000 and 7000 feet. Before the central table land is reached, there is a triple range running east and west. The Chár-shambah Şú holds a course parallel to this range, until it bends round the western end of it in longitude 36° 30' E., and enters the sea at Sámsún.⁴ The Jórúk bounds its eastern extremity near Batum, where it falls into the Euxine, in longitude 41° 30' E. The range is partially cut through in one place by the river⁵, which, rising near Gúmish-khánah⁶, empties itself into the sea at Tírehbóh, about 60 miles to the west of Trebizond. The whole range of mountains, from sea to sea, is limestone. Volcanic rocks frequently are found, first on the northern face near Trebizond, then at Erz-rúm, at Diár-bekr, and at Kaısar: between Gúmish-khánah and Trebizond, granite rises up occasionally. The mountains abound in veins of copper and lead, the last being rich in silver. Mineral springs frequently occur, most of them hot. Towards the Black Sea, the mountains are clothed with forests to an elevation of about 4500 feet; but above that height, the country in general is bare of trees,

¹ Jorokh or Horokh in Armenian, Choroki in Georgian, and Chúrák or Chûrúk in Turkish.

² That is, Wednesday-water, probably from a village of which the market is kept on that day of the week; by Turkish writers it is called Yeshil Irenak, that is, Green River.

³ Red River.

⁴ The ancient Amisus.

⁵ KharshOt in Lapie's Map; Goumache-khaneque (GOMish-khnnéh-şOun, Silver-house River) in Darmet's, copied from the Russian Map of 1819.

⁶ Silver-house.

although, in some recesses of the mountains, forests exist even in the central more elevated parts. The passes from the coast are numerous, but, excepting those which follow the valleys of the great rivers, they are difficult, and many are open only in summer. The soil is, for the most part, fertile, and the country well watered. The population may be considered as small in proportion to the land susceptible of cultivation.

Trebizond, situated on the southern shore of the Black Sea, has been a place of importance almost since its first foundation by the Greeks, in ages beyond the reach of authentic records. It was at this city that Xenophon reached the sea on his celebrated retreat with his 10,000 Greeks after the defeat and death of Cyrus the younger at the battle of Cunaxa in Mesopotamia. It is impossible to trace his route from Xenophon's account of the retreat, but unless the face of the country be entirely changed, the pass, by which he crossed the mountains in order to reach Trebizond, must be the same now in use, since no other is practicable in winter, and it was during that season the passage was effected by the Greeks.

At the period of the Roman dominion over Asia Minor, their trade with India is supposed to have passed through Trebizond; and in later times the Genoese brought the productions of Hindostan from Ispahan to Trebizond, and from thence conveyed them through Caffa in the Crimea, and afterwards through Constantinople to Europe.

The sovereigns of Armenia permitted the Genoese to establish a line of fortified stations through their kingdom to the frontier of Persia. Trebizond was the first, and Byzid the last, of these stations. They were between 25 and 40 miles apart, and were always in commanding and defensible positions, surrounded by solid and extensive walls, within which were quarters for the guards and shelter for the horses and merchandise of the caravans. In their progress from station to station, in order to secure their safety, the caravans were furnished with escorts, more or less numerous according to the state of the country. Baibút and Erz-rúm were two of their strongholds; and the solidity and extent of the fortifications there, and at other places, show the importance the Genoese attached to their trade; the profits of which must have been very large to have sufficed, not only to meet such immense expenses, but also to have enriched the republic.

After the expulsion of the Genoese from Caffa, about the middle of the fifteenth century, and the extinction of the independent principality of Trebizond on the capture of the city by Mahomet II., which occurred nearly at the same time, the commercial relations between Trebizond and Europe ceased entirely, and the Euxine became closed to the navigation of Christendom.

That the Black Sea has been gradually re-opened to European vessels has been owing to treaties extorted by Russia from Turkey at various periods, at the point of the bayonet; and the last treaty (that of Adrianople) finally rendered every part of the Euxine accessible to the commercial flag of all the nations of Europe.

The old channel of communication with India and Persia has thus been once more resumed. It is not probable, however, that it can at the present day be made available for an Indian trade with Europe, because more economical routes are now open; but that it is the most eligible channel for an intercourse with Persia and the circumjacent countries, has been placed beyond all doubt by positive results, in proof of which the rapid increase of the trade may be adduced. In 1830, only 5000 bales of European merchandise passed through Trebizond on their way to Persia, while in 1835, nearly 20,000 proceeded by the same track to the same destination.

There are no remains in the city, nor in the neighbourhood, of buildings of a more remote age than the Christian era. The number of churches is great; for independent of nearly twenty churches and chapels still retained for the service of the Greek Church, almost all the mosques have been Christian churches. The handsomest is that of Santa Sophia, which is situated a mile to the west of the city; it is still in a good state of preservation externally, and although it has been converted into a mosque, it is seldom used by the Mohammedans.

The town is built on the slope of a hill facing the sea; part is surrounded by a castellated and lofty wall, and is in the shape of a parallelogram. On either side of the walled portion of the city is a deep ravine, filled with trees and gardens, and both ravines are traversed by long bridges. Overlooking the city is a citadel, which is rather dilapidated and neglected; it is commanded by neighbouring heights. The gates of the city are closed at sunset, and the walls are in sufficient preservation to serve as a defence against an attack by troops unprovided with artillery. Many fragments of marble and of inscriptions, remains of more ancient structures, are worked into the walls. Over one of the principal gates is a long inscription, which refers to a Christian bishop and one of the emperors of Constantinople; it is evidently not in its original position. The walls and citadel are generally, and no doubt justly, attributed to the Genoese.

Below the town is a small port, intended probably for row-galleys. The beach between the city and the sea was enclosed by the walls of the town on both its sides, being prolonged till they joined the quays. The port was thus rendered inaccessible by land, except from the town, and the communication between them could not be interrupted. The quays were of masonry, and surrounded the whole port, leaving only a narrow entrance: the upper parts have been washed away, but enough of the masonry remains under water to break the violence of the sea, and to give protection to boats and small craft by which the port is still frequented.

There is no port for ships; a small open bay at the eastern extremity of the town is used as an anchorage during the summer. After the autumnal equinox, the Turkish and European vessels resort to Platana, an open roadstead about seven miles to the west of Trebizond. But British vessels anchor at all seasons at Trebizond; and the anchorage there, in winter even, appears to be quite as secure as that of Platana. The bottom is excellent holding ground, and with good ground-tackle, a ship would ride safely in the heaviest weather. The high mountains covered with snow prevent the wind from blowing

home on this coast; and during the severest gales there are, at short intervals, lulls of wind and sea, and there seldom is a night during the whole year in which the wind does not blow off the land.

The houses of the town contain for the most part a ground-floor alone; and all having a yard or a garden with a few fruit trees, scarcely a house is visible from the sea, and the town has the appearance of a forest when the trees are in leaf.

The city contains between 25,000 and 30,000 inhabitants. The Greeks may be estimated at 3500 to 4000, the Armenians at 1500 to 2000, and the Mohammedans at 20,000 to 24,000. The walled part of the city is inhabited solely by the latter; and that portion without the walls contains the Christian population, some Mohammedan families, as well as the bazars and khans. The natives of all sects, whether Christian or Mohammedan, are unfriendly to Europeans, and are an ignorant, rude, and bigoted race.

From the period of the expulsion of the Genoese and the capture of Trebizond by the Turks, its commerce dwindled into insignificance; and previous to 1830 it consisted in the export of a few products of the country to Constantinople; in the import of iron from Taganrog, a Russian port in the sea of Azof; and in a traffic with Abassah carried on in small craft, which transported salt, sulphur, lead, and considerable quantities of the manufactures of Turkey, receiving in exchange from the uncivilized tribes of the Caucasus their various raw productions, as well as a great number of male and female slaves.

The blockade of the coast of Abassah by the Russians, with a view to the subjugation of the Caucasian tribes, and to the extinction of the traffic in slaves, has annihilated the trade between Abassah and Trebizond; and the native merchants have since turned their attention towards that of Constantinople, which has, in consequence, increased, together with the consumption of European manufactures.

The country immediately around Trebizond has few productions,-objects of a commercial exchange with Europeans. Tobacco, bees'-wax, hazel-nuts, honey, butter, and kidney-beans, are exported from thence to Constantinople. The neighbouring mountains abound in rich veins of copper and lead ores, but the system of working mines in practice prevents the development of this rich source of national wealth.

The present importance of Trebizond is derived almost solely from its being the most convenient point of debarkation for merchandise destined for Armenia and Persia; but it is not improbable that a relaxation on the part of the Turkish government with regard to monopolies, and a change in the tariff now in operation in Georgia, may one day occasion Trebizond to become an interesting commercial mart, independent of its transit trade to Armenia and Persia.

I embarked at Trebizond on the 19th May, 1835, in a galley, and kept along the shore to the Russian frontier, a distance of 60 hours, or as many leagues, passing in succession the districts of Yomurah, Surmenah, O'f, Rízah, and Lázistán. All these,

however, except O'f, are known under the general name of Lázistán, and the people are called Láz. The O'fli's have peculiar habits and customs distinct from those of the Láz.

The picturesque beauty of the coast is particularly striking. The mountains rise immediately from the sea from 4000 to 5000 feet, clothed with dense forests, composed principally of chestnut, beech, walnut, alder, poplar, willow, and occasionally small oak, elm, ash, maple, and box, the higher parts being covered with fir. No ship-building is carried on in this part of the coast, and there is no exportation of timber, (a general prohibition existing against it in Turkey) so that the forests supply only charcoal, firewood, and timber for the construction of houses and of boats used in the coasting trade and fisheries.

The country is so wooded and mountainous, that it does not produce grain sufficient for the consumption of the population, yet not a spot capable of cultivation appears to be left untilled. Corn fields are to be seen hanging on the precipitous sides of mountains, at which no plough could arrive. The ground is prepared by manual labour, a two-pronged fork, of a construction peculiar to the country, being used for this purpose. Indian corn is the grain usually grown, and it is seldom that any other is used for bread by the people: what the country does not supply is procured from Guriel and Mingrelia.

The people are a hardy, laborious, and bold race, they are skilled in the use of a short rifle, which every man carries slung at his back, wherever and on whatever occasion he moves, and they enjoy a high reputation as soldiers. A demand is always made on this country by the Porte to supply a certain number of men for the arsenal at Constantinople.

A general census of the full-grown men in the empire, capable of bearing arms, was lately taken; the result gave for O'f, 24,000 men, and for Lázistán, 18,000 men. O'f has a very small extent of coast, but inland it spreads more widely, and runs nearly to the Jórúk, being bounded by that river and Lázistán. The O'flis in many of their habits much resemble the inhabitants of Maina in the Morea, carrying on blood-feuds from father to son; but when out of their own country, they are peaceable, and give their attention to commerce. They are represented as wealthy, having good towns, and houses of a better description than are usually found in these countries. Their country is very mountainous and inaccessible, particularly in winter; but, from their character, strangers seldom venture among them, and very little more is known of them, than that they are a fierce and independent race.

There are no towns in Lázistán: in Surmenah, Rízah, A'tenah, Khópah, and Bátúm, places all situated on the coast, there are bázárs, which consist of a street of shops, together with one or more coffee-houses, and a khán or two. At these bázárs a weekly market is held. The inhabitants live in cottages scattered singly over the country.

Surmenah and Yomurah, contiguous to Trebizond, may be considered as belonging to it; the people, being in constant contact with the townspeople, are more civilized than the Láz generally are.

Rízah is an important and fertile district, with the most extensive bázár on the coast. The climate is milder than in other parts: oranges and lemons are produced in the open air, shelter for the trees not being required in the winter months as it is at Trebizond. *Rízah* is famous for the manufacture of a linen made from hemp, used throughout Turkey for shirts.

A'tenah is a very insignificant place, with a small bázár.

Between *Khópah* and Trebizond no places on the coast communicate by caravans with the interior. There are passes from Surmenah, O'f, and *Rízah*, which are only practicable in summer, but I believe merchandise is never transported by them even then.

Khópah is an open roadstead where goods are landed, which are destined for Atvin⁷, a small manufacturing town on the river *Jórúk*, three days' distant from the coast. Sometimes goods destined for Ahkiskhah are landed at *Khópah*, and carried through Atvin; but more generally they are landed at *Bátúm*, and conveyed by the *Ajerah*, or *Kúlah* valley⁸.

There are numerous summer anchorages all along the coast from Trebizond, as also several which are considered safe, and used in winter, but there is no port except at *Bátúm*.

Bátúm is well sheltered, and its bay is capable of containing a large number of ships, but it is an unhealthy station, and those who venture to reside there from July to October are exposed to severe attacks of fever. The port owes its existence to the river *Jórúk*, which, falling into the sea some miles to the westward of *Bátúm*, has deposited, between its present channel and that place, a large tract of alluvial soil forming the western side of the bay. The sea has thrown up a bank of shingle which forms a border to this peninsula, leaving the land within it raised very little above the level of the sea, marshy and covered with brushwood, -these marshes occasion the unhealthiness of the place. The bázár is situated on the western side of the bay, close by the sea; it contains about sixty shops, several coffee-houses and kháns, and a mosque, all built of wood. Many buildings were in progress, and the place had the appearance of a newly-settled colony. There are a few small houses built, and gardens cleared in the brush-wood behind the bázár. The eastern side of the bay, opposite to the bázár, is healthy, and were a town placed on the rising ground there, it might be inhabited safely at all seasons, and would be placed beyond the influence of the marshes, since the breadth of the bay at that part is between two and three miles. Every person is obliged now to shut up his shop and quit the place during the sickly season.

The river *Jórúk* is the boundary between the Páshálik of Trebizond and *Kárs*; *Bátúm* lying to the eastward of it, is consequently in the latter. It is one of the larger rivers of Armenia, uniting the waters of the *Kúlah*, or *Ajerah* valley, the *Marsat Dereh*,

⁷ Probably Artvani of Lapie, and Artzani of the Russian Map, on a tributary to the *Jórúk*.

⁸ To the N.E. of *Bátúm*.

near Báibút⁹, and of all the valleys on the western and northern sides of the mountains, in which are the sources of the Kur, Aras, Arpah-cháï (*Harpasus*), and the Կարá Տú, or Western Euphrates, -these rivers serving as drains to the valleys on the opposite sides of the chain. Rafts come down the Jórúk from Atvin to the sea in three days, and sometimes, though rarely, track up against the stream in eight or ten; but from what I could learn, the river would not probably be navigable for boats, on account of rapids and rocks.

The country throughout is without roads; during the winter a direct communication with the interior across the mountains is impracticable, and between places on the coast it is usually kept up by sea.

The Russian Frontier, at about eight hours distant from Bátúm, and two beyond the bázár of Chórúk Տú, is formed by a river called the *Shefkatil Տú*, which rises in the mountains that run eastward and northward from the bay of Bátúm, and form the southern boundary of a vast plain. The river crosses this plain obliquely, holding a north-western course, and detaching from the rest of the plain, a small portion which is bounded by the river, the mountains and the sea, and which has been left in possession of Turkey. On the northern bank of the Shefkatil Տú, there is a small Russian fort called St. Nikolai, where is a quarantine-station.

Chórúk Տú possesses a more extensive bázár than Bátúm, with several coffee-houses, and a mosque; but there are no dwelling-houses, except that of the Bey. The persons who have shops in the bázár, are partly strangers from the coast of Lázistán and partly natives, the latter live in the contiguous mountains, and once a week, on the market-day, frequent the bázár, which is well attended. The Láz quit the place at the unhealthy season, in the autumn, and return when it is past. There is no harbour here, and I consider that, as a place of trade, it will soon be superseded by the more eligible station of Bátúm, where everything has the appearance of improvement, while at Chórúk Տú things seem in gradual progress of decay. The district is a dependency on the Páshálik of Կárş. The house of the Bey is on the shore close by the bázár, and was intended to have been enclosed in a fort, which was begun after the conclusion of the Russian war, but it was never proceeded with beyond the foundations. The bázár is built on a steep bank of shingle, thrown up by the sea, which being higher than the plain behind, protects it from the encroachments of the sea. The streams flowing from the mountains across this low flat run in sluggish currents, and, after heavy rains, render it a complete marsh, and having forced very deep channels through the shingle bank, empty themselves into the sea. Beyond the plain, which is in general narrow, commences a wood-land, which continues in the direction of the mountains to their base at the distance of about four or five miles.

At Chórúk Տú I quitted the boat and commenced my journey by land. I had entered the Páshálik of Կárş on passing the mouth of the river Jórúk, and had now to traverse the country as far as the city, whence it takes its name. The distance, by my line of

⁹ Báibút, or Paipurth, in Armenian; purth means castle.-A.

route, was about 120 miles to Digwír, close on the Russian frontier, and thence to Kárs by Ardahán, about seventy miles. The country, until I reached the heights above Digwír, was very mountainous and woody, the summits themselves were pastures without wood; thence descending into Poshkov, there is a succession of rich plains, without any trees, excepting occasional pine forests in the recesses of the mountains, which border and divide the plains.

On this journey of 1500 miles I travelled as consul, and was furnished as such with a firman from the sultan. My suite consisted of a drogoman, a tatar, and two servants, and I had usually twelve horses including those of two guides. The loads, for the sake of dispatch, were light. My rate of travelling was between ten and sixteen post-hours a day; from 30 to 48 miles. The current expenses of horses, lodging, &c. amounted to about 30/. every 100 post-hours, or 300 miles. This was independent of presents, tatars, guards, and some incidental charges to which a private traveller would not be liable. I was treated by every body with great attention. Guards were always appointed, and although seldom (and I may almost say never) required, yet I could not, without offence, decline the compliment, as such they were intended, and such I considered them.

On the cross-roads post-horses are seldom found, but the villagers are obliged, and are in general quite willing, to furnish them at the post rate of one Turkish piastre ($2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per post-hour, three miles. I was but occasionally detained long for want of animals.

I think a traveller, making moderate dispatch, with a small quantity of baggage and not many attendants, would find 30/. per 100 hours adequate to all his expenses. I would include in this his tatars' pay, and every expense.

The peasants who receive the traveller in the villages are generally content to leave their remuneration to his generosity. I seldom have found them dissatisfied with what I gave, but a few instances of the contrary did occur, and I am sorry to say it was generally in the poor Christian's house. I universally found the Mohammedans civil, ready to give all they had, and grateful for whatever they might receive.

In towns I was usually allotted quarters in the house of some wealthy Armenian, and was always well treated by them. My entertainers would seldom make any demand or accept money; in such cases a trifle was presented to the wife.

Quitting *Chórúk Şú*, I crossed the low meadows situated behind the bázár, passed through a narrow wood, and commenced ascending, by a beautiful but wild mountain gorge, the valley of Khino, The forest scenery was as magnificent as can be conceived, the trees of the same description as those in Lázistán, but of far larger dimensions. The first night was passed at a village named Jaghát, the houses of which were not collected together, but dispersed among the woods. Wheat is not grown here, but Indian corn, millet, and some rice are cultivated: the winters are not severe, but the summers and autumns are wet, and on that account the harvest often fails; for two years past, enough had not ripened for their consumption. Fruits of the commoner sorts are abundant and good, and grapes enough are grown to make wine. The next day, continuing the ascent through a similar country, and the same kind of scenery, I passed

a straggling village named Zerehbozel, and in the evening reached my night's quarters at *Didewaghi*, situated directly under the pass of the Kolowah Dágh, containing eighteen families, with the houses collected together. The whole valley is under the Bey of Chórúk Şú. The height of the village above the level of the sea, I should not estimate at more than 4000 feet, but the long winters of nearly eight months' duration, the foggy and wet summers, and early autumns, render agriculture there a very precarious occupation. The arable land is of small extent, and, in favourable seasons, will not yield the inhabitants above a six months' supply of grain. They have but few cattle or sheep from the impossibility of procuring winter fodder, which must be given for nearly eight months. The inhabitants are a very fine race, and show their Georgian mixture in their handsome features: they speak Georgian generally after reaching Bátúm, and in the valley through which I had passed, many of the natives did not understand Turkish at all. The men always go about armed with a rifle and a khammah, or large double edged knife, and they still have suspended from their girdles a knot of cord, which, though but ornamental now, served formerly to bind any captive Georgian they might meet in their rambles.

The country is very difficult, there are only mere footpaths through thick forests and beside dangerous precipices. Caravans do not attempt this road; they go from Bátúm up the Kúlah or Ajerah valley.

From hence there are two passes to cross into the Ajerah valley, one by the Perengah Dágh¹⁰ and down the Juwánah valley, the other over the Kolówah Dagh and down the Akó valley. The Perengah Dágh pass is to the eastward of the other, and is the more difficult pass, but it makes a shorter cut, and runs near the Russian frontier. I had wished to go by it, the state of the snow, however, prevented the possibility; even by the Kolówah Dágh it was necessary to place my baggage on the backs of men, as laden horses could not pass, and from the extreme steepness of the mountain I was obliged to walk both up and down. The side I ascended was clothed with forests of the largest beech-trees I ever saw. The summit of the mountain was, on the 30th May, still covered with deep snow which was fast melting; on the upper part only a few stunted juniper bushes and spruce fir were growing, but the summit itself was bare. The descent into the valley of A'ko, was extremely steep and long; it took me four hours to ascend and as many to descend, including our numerous rests. A'ko is a pretty valley, and contains about sixty families, who seemed in easy circumstances, for the valley was well cultivated, and there appeared to be a sufficiency of land. The climate is temperate; rye and Indian corn are grown, but not much wheat; a small quantity of silk also is produced. The cattle are fed in the pastures on the Perengah Dágh, and when they encroach on the Georgian territory about ninepence per head is exacted for the grass, during the summer months.

The character of the people seems very much to resemble that of those on the other side of the range just passed; they look like Georgians, and speak the language.

¹⁰ Dágh [tágh] means mountain.

From A'ko I descended into the Kúlah or Ajerah valley, through which runs a very considerable river, uniting with the Chórúk before it falls into the sea near Bátúm. On reaching the banks of the river, I got into the direct road from Bátúm, and about two miles beyond passed the opening of the Juwánah Valley, down which descends the road over the Perengah Dágh pass.

The forests on this side differ entirely in character from those on the other side of the range. Here they are quite alpine, and consist principally of small oak, mixed with Scotch and spruce fir. As the mountain is ascended, the oak disappears, and in the higher part are found only the spruce fir, with a few birches and alders. Along the valley as high as Kúlah, villages are of frequent occurrence, and there would appear to be sufficient cultivation to supply the wants of the inhabitants.

The roads in the Kúlah valley, below its junction with that of A'ko, were represented as more difficult than those in the upper part.

Kúlah, the hereditary possession of Aḥmed Páshá of Kárs, at about sixty miles from Bátúm, is the principal place in the valley, and contains with its immediate neighbourhood, about sixty houses and a bázár with twenty shops. The climate is good, for grapes ripen here readily and wine is made, but higher up the valley no vines are to be found.

Continuing up the valley we reached at its head the village of *Danesvorólah*, having one hour previously passed the small one of Reged, where the Āghá of the district resides. The distance from Kúlah is about twelve miles, but the rocky nature of the road, and the frequent circuits we were obliged to make to cross torrents, fatigued our horses and made our progress slow. The woods and mountains showed an elevation of probably 5,500 feet, and the snow lies so long on the ground, that it often happens that grain does not ripen. An additional proof also of the severity of the climate may be adduced, viz., that above the pine forest, which is immediately over the village, the birches and alders were, in the commencement of June, only beginning to put forth their buds. On every side are most luxuriant meadows yielding pasture for a fine breed of cattle, which are numerous.

Danesvorólah is chiefly inhabited by persons who have quitted the territory ceded to Russia, and who have been located here, until they can find a more eligible place of residence.

Immediately on quitting the village the road ascends through a pine forest for an hour, when the summit of the range is reached; where are extensive pastures, used by the natives of the contiguous valley, as the summer grazing grounds of their herds and flocks, but these pastures are free from snow only between three and four months, and even at the season in which I was there, on many parts the snow lay so deep, that my baggage horses had great difficulty in getting through it.

From the heights, there is an easy descent into the plain of *Poshkov*. The country as well as the natives assume now a character perfectly distinct from those on the opposite side of the mountains, where the country is mountainous and wooded; the

houses are all of timber, the language Georgian, and the people a fine, tall, handsome race. On this side the country is open, or rather it is a succession of plains without wood, except in some recesses of the mountains; the habitations are the underground houses of Armenia, and the people talk only Turkish, and bear the distinctive features of the Armenian race. The whole tract is well adapted to the growth of grain, as well as for grazing, and, although now depopulated from the consequences of the war, will probably be soon again occupied. The Sanjáḵ of Poshkov was retained by the Russians until the definitive settlement of the frontier, and either on their evacuating it, or during the occupation, all the villages were destroyed; some, however, are now in progress of restoration, but many still remain in ruins.

I passed the night at the village of Digwír, where the Bey of the Sanjáḵ of Poshkov resides; on leaving it I crossed a high mountain range, without a tree, with but few villages and little cultivation; affording scarcely more than summer pasturage to the flocks and herds of some Turkomán tribes. In some of the sheltered recesses on the slopes of the mountains, there are fir forests, but not any trees, either on the summits of the mountains or in the lower plains. From the range, I descended into the rich plain of Ardahán, watered by the Kur; the upper part is marshy near the sources of the river, and serves merely to pasture large herds of cattle, the lower part is well cultivated and productive.

Ardahán formerly contained 300 houses, but it was occupied and destroyed by the Russians, and now numbers only 70 families.

The houses are, like those of the villages of Armenia, underground; a method of construction adopted on account of the severity of the climate. There is a fortress, but it was dismantled by the Russians and the guns taken away; it is, however, commanded by neighbouring heights, and never could be made a place of strength. Within the castle walls is a large house, belonging to the Bey, as, also, other houses built of stone and above ground, but most of them are now in ruins.

From *Ardahán* the road lies over a high table-land, abounding in excellent pastures intersected by swamps, but with very little cultivation. In a distance of about 25 miles, not a single village occurred, nor until within three hours of *Ḳárş* did villages and cultivation reappear, when the country became well peopled and highly productive.

Ḳárş was formerly a large town, and might have contained 6000 or 8000 families; a part of it is walled and has a citadel¹¹, but it is commanded by heights within musket range, on the opposite side of a deep narrow ravine, through which runs the river *Arpah-Chái*.¹² Two stone bridges unite the two portions of the city divided by the river, encircling the walled portion of the town on three sides.

The town is now little better than a heap of ruins, not containing above 1500 or 2000 families. A great part of the Turkish population abandoned it during the Russian occupation, and all the Armenians emigrated with the retreating army of the Russians,

¹¹ Built by Amurath (Murád) III.-Ed.

¹² Barley-river.

leaving many deserted villages, and a great deal of unoccupied land. The Turks of *Ḳárş* have always been considered a turbulent and bad race of people, but the *Páshá* has succeeded in gaining an ascendancy over them, and they dare no longer show their seditious spirit. *Ḳárş* is the residence of a *Páshá* of two tails.

The climate is very severe, but the fertile plains around produce abundant crops of excellent wheat and various grains, the surplus of which is exported to Georgia. Wheat produces six to eight fold, and barley eight to ten.

On quitting *Ḳárş*, I proceeded through a rich and well-watered plain, about twenty-live miles in extent, with luxuriant pastures, abundance of cultivated land and numerous villages ; among which, one only is inhabited by Armenians, all the others being possessed by Turks. There were numerous herds of remarkably large and line cattle. From the extremity of the plain, I commenced, by a very gradual rise, the ascent of the *Suvánli Dágh*, which is covered with forests of Scotch fir. It would be easy to make a carriage road across this mountain range, which is traversed during the summer by carts, used for the transport of goods between *Ḳárş* and *Erz-rúm*. The ascent is long and gradual, and the estimated height may be 5500 feet above the sea; the descent is short and rapid, and ends on the banks of the *Aras*, flowing through the plain of *Pásín*, which is remarkable for its fertility; wheat was said to return ten, and barley fifteen fold. Innumerable Armenian families emigrated from *Pásín* with the Russian army; most of the villages are but half inhabited, and wide tracts of rich land lie waste. This plain is separated from that of *Erz-rúm* by a low range of hills¹³, rising from 800 to 1000 feet above the plain, called the *Deveh Bóyiní*, or Camel's Neck.

Hasan Ḳal'eh, the town of the plain, has been a considerable place, but it is now a heap of ruins, and contains only some 30 or 40 families; it is walled, and has a Genoese castle in ruins, but it could not be made defensible, on account of the vicinity of the mountains. The distance from *Ḳárş* to *Erz-rúm* is about 110 miles. The forests of the *Suvánli Dágh* supply *Ḳárş*, *Erz-rúm*, and the villages in the plain of *Pásín*, with timber for building and firewood, A few Kurds inhabit the plain, who do not migrate beyond it, and are quite inoffensive.

*Erz-rúm*¹⁴ must always be of importance from its position. It is situated in an extensive and fertile plain between 30 and 40 miles in its extreme length, and from 15 to 20 in its greatest breadth, watered by the *Ḳará Şú*, or western branch of the *Euphrates*. On every side are found rich grain-countries in which good horses, fine mules, cattle and sheep, are reared in great numbers. *Erz-rúm* commands the road to Persia, protects the approach to Constantinople, and is now the first important place in Turkey, whether entered from Georgia or Persia. As a *Páshálik* it yields only in rank and extent to that of *Baghdad*.

¹³ One of the highest points of Armenia, and forming the separation of the waters of the *Araxes* and *Euphrates*, whose sources here approach within 10 miles of each other.-Ed.

¹⁴ *Arze*, the antient name. *Arze-el-Rúm*, contracted into *Arzerúm*. *Anatolia* is called *Rúm* by the people to the eastward. To this day, you are asked in Persia whether you come from *Rúm*.

The climate is severe on account of the elevation above the sea, which I estimate¹⁵ at 5500 feet. The plain formerly contained about 100 well populated and flourishing villages, some partially and some wholly Armenian; the latter people have chiefly emigrated, and, in consequence, there are many villages half inhabited, many without inhabitants, and a great portion of the plain lies waste. The soil is of unequal fertility; towards the upper part, near the mountains, where the town is placed, wheat yields only six to eight fold, while in the lower ground, near the river, it renders twelve to fifteen fold. All the grains in this part of Armenia are reckoned peculiarly fine in quality.

The city is rising slowly from the ruin in which it was involved by the Russian occupation, and by the emigration of so many industrious and laborious Armenians; its former population was estimated, in 1827, at about 130,000 inhabitants; at present there cannot be above 15,000, but it fluctuates considerably, on account of the vast number of strangers who are constantly arriving and departing with caravans. The town is partly surrounded by an old castellated wall, of the date of the Genoese occupation, and contains a citadel. A large portion of the city is unwalled, where are the principal bázárs and kháns.

On leaving Erz-rúm on the 2nd of July I crossed the plain, following the course of the K̄ará Şú for about 20 miles, and then diverged from the high Constantinople road, which continues near the river, and went over a more elevated tract of country, with little cultivation and few villages. It is in ordinary seasons deficient in moisture, and hence crops are then scanty; but in wet seasons it produces a good return. From this elevated ground I descended into the plain of Terján, in which the Mamah-khátún River unites with the K̄ará Şú. This is a fine plain and well watered; the district contains about 40 villages, inhabited by Turks, among whom a few Armenians are intermingled; but it is susceptible of maintaining more people, for a great deal of fine land lies waste. The people complained much of the predatory conduct of the Kurds who live in the Dújik Mountains, which border the plain on the south, to whom they attributed the desolate state of the country. No cattle can be left out at night; all grain reaped must be housed before night, for both cattle and grain found in the fields are carried away by the Kurds.

The climate is much milder than at Erz-rúm, as was indicated by the state of the harvest; here the grain had turned yellow, while at Erz-rúm it had not come to a head: wheat returns here ten fold. The buildings are half underground, in the usual Armenian style; but the winter is not severe enough to prevent the cattle being sent out to feed. The K̄ará Şú, after the junction of the Mamah-khátún River, becomes a considerable stream, and even in the driest season is fordable only in a few places.

The distance from Erz-rúm to Karghán may be about 60 miles in a west-south-west direction.

¹⁵ By a series of Barometrical Observations. A. As at Erz-Rúm water boils at 200° of Fahrenheit's scale, the level of that place appears to be about 7000 feet above the sea. See Memoir of Mr. G. W. Brown, in Walpole's Memoirs, relating to Greece and Asiatic Turkey, voi. ii. p. 178.-F. S.

Between the plains of Teiján and Erzingán, a mountain-range intervenes with many very strong passes easily defensible; it is inhabited by Kurds, and forms part of the Dújik range. The river makes a circuit far into the mountains; its channel was said to be full of rocks and rapids; it rejoined our road as we entered the plain of Erzingán.

The Dújik Mountains are peopled solely by Kurds, who inhabit villages in winter and cultivate the land: They are represented as rich, pay no sort of contributions to the Sultán, lose no opportunity of levying them on passengers whom they meet, and are in the constant habit of plundering their neighbours. There are two powerful tribes, one called the Sháh Huseïn, and the other the Balabánlí; each, I was informed, could bring between 4000 and 5000 men into the field, mostly on foot. Several other tribes inhabit these mountains, of which I could not get any particular account, as they reside on the southern parts of the range. The distance from Karghán to Erzingán I estimated at about 30 miles, in a direction inclining a little to the southward of west.

Erzingán is a town containing about 3000 houses or families, of which about 800 are Armenian and the rest Turkish; it is governed by a Bey, and is a dependence on the Páshalik of Erz-rúm. The houses here, and in all the villages of the plain, are built above-ground, which gives them a more agreeable and cheerful appearance than in other parts of Armenia. The town is situated at the western end of a beautiful and rich plain, which is about 20 miles long, by 7 or 8 broad. The Gujik Mountains form its southern boundary, and at their foot runs the Qará Şú.

The climate is here never severe in winter and it is warm in summer. The harvest was ready (6th July) for the sickle, and the season was rather more backward than usual. On the northern side of the plain the bases of the mountains bounding it are covered with villages, surrounded by very extensive gardens, which furnish, in great abundance, excellent fruit to the circumjacent districts, even as far as Erz-rúm, Báibút, and Gúmish-khánah. Grapes and melons are among the fruits produced. The fields bore the most abundant crops I had anywhere witnessed; the wheat was heavy and the straw much longer than in the Erz-rúm plain. Wheat was said to render twelve fold. The centre of the plain was rather swampy, and showed indications of salt. It affords pasture to a great number of mares, cows, and sheep. There were stated to be about 100 villages in the plain, but the Kurdish depredations have been gradually diminishing the number of the inhabitants. A village I stopped at, formerly contained 100 families which had now only about thirty, and I was informed that most of the villages were similarly reduced. In no part of Asia Minor did I see a plain with a more luxuriant vegetation, nor with the appearance of a more careful cultivation.

Crossing the plain in a southerly direction, in about an hour and a half, we entered a very narrow defile through which the Qará Şú flows. This defile in its whole length to Kemákh is very strong, and presents innumerable defensible positions. The river was on my left running at the foot of the Dújik Mountains, on my right were mountains all but precipitous. The river is fordable in one or two places with some difficulty, during the dry season. It took me ten hours to go from Erzingán to Kemákh, but from the nature of the

road I should not conceive the distance to be above twenty-six miles. I entered Kemákh by a bridge of wood thrown over a deep chasm in the mountain through which the river has forced its way. Just before entering the chasm, the Keumer Şú had joined the Kará Şú: the former comes from the mountains in a westerly direction, and by it wood is brought down for the use of Egín and Këbán Ma'den, and floated down thither by the Kará Şú.

Kemákh is a singular place; an elevated portion of the town is within a wall of very ancient structure, but commanded by mountains rising close to it. The remainder is situated on a slope amidst gardens ascending from the river's banks. The governor is one of the remaining Dereh-Beys¹⁶, whose family has held the office for several generations, and who possesses extensive tracts of land around. The town contains 400 Turkish and about 30 Armenian houses: there seemed to be no commerce nor manufacture. The inhabitants live by cultivating the neighbouring valleys and by transporting wood to Këbán Ma'den. There is sufficient water in most parts of the river to navigate it with boats, but rapids, rocks, and shoals too frequently occur to render the clearing the channel a promising enterprise in the present state of the country; I was informed, however, by a person in the habit of bringing down timber from Kemákh to Egín, that the difficulties opposed to such an undertaking were by no means insuperable.

On quitting Kemákh I recrossed the bridge by which I had entered it, and took a course more westerly than the river, crossing mountains which here and there presented strong positions. The post-station was formerly near the river, but it had been removed several hours from its banks, which lengthened our road. I reached Herhemeh, the post, a small village, after a ten hours' ride, but I did not estimate the distance above twenty-five miles. From that village I returned towards the river, and reached the ferry of Khóstú in four hours or twelve miles, having passed in the way the village of Hasan O'vah,¹⁷ situated in a very productive valley. The river at the ferry of Khóstú was rapid and wide, and not fordable. I saw on the left bank some women reaping the corn, and armed men watching near, to prevent the Kurds from carrying it off. After crossing to the left bank of the river I continued along it for about three miles, till I reached a village below which the stream again enters a vast rent in the mountains, the precipices on either side rising to 1000 or 1500 feet. I here quitted the river and crossed the range to shorten the road; the river soon after passing through the chasm in the chain makes a bend to the south-east, and our course cut off this corner; the mountains were very steep. There was said to be a better, though a longer, road by keeping along the right bank of the river, but it could only be better by comparison - good it could not be. The distance from Herhemeh to Egín I estimated at about thirty miles on a general bearing of south by west, but the nature of the road made the day severe for the horses and tedious for the riders, having been about thirteen hours on the road.

¹⁶ Valley-beys, or chiefs.

¹⁷ Hasan's plain.

Egín is situated in a very deep valley on the right bank of the Euphrates; the approaches to it are difficult on every side, we crossed the river by a long wooden bridge to reach the town, as the road we took was on the opposite bank. There are numerous villages in the valley, nearly as populous as the town itself. The mountains rise from the banks of the river by a steep slope, which is terminated by abrupt precipices; the whole height of the mountains may be about 4000 feet, and the valley is so narrow that they seem quite to hang over the town. The sloping part of the mountains is covered with gardens, on terraces rising one above the other, and the trees being thick the houses appear to be situated in a forest, and the contrast between the lower part of the valley and the severe and lofty limestone precipices which border it produces a singular effect; in fact I never saw so remarkable a valley. The climate is very temperate, agreeably cool in summer from the abundance of trees and water, and the current of air which blows through the valley; and in winter snow seldom lies on the ground, but the higher mountains are then impassable, and it often happens that all communication is, for weeks together, cut off between the valley and places beyond the mountains. The town contains 2700 houses, 2000 of which are Mohammedan and 700 Armenian. Many of the villages contain 400 or 500 houses. Very little grain is cultivated in the valley, from the want of level ground, and the whole is occupied by gardens. The trees are mostly the white mulberry, the fruit of which is eaten fresh; it is also dried, and then converted into brandy, or boiled into *petmez*, a syrup obtained likewise from grapes. Wine is made in small quantities, and common fruits are abundant. The *goître* is a frequent disease, and I found a man who said it was hereditary in his family, his mother had it, and all her children, while the children of his father by another wife were exempt from it.

After quitting *Egín*, we continued on the western bank of the river, but instead of following the windings of the stream we crossed several steep mountains and deep valleys. The road is less difficult than that by which I approached *Egín*. The course of the river was more or less obstructed by rocks and shoals, and it is not used as a channel of communication, except for rafts of timber for the use of the mine at *Kebán Ma'den*. After continuing with the river for about fifteen or sixteen miles, we left it, and turning more westerly crossed a mountain range, which brought us by a slight descent to an elevated plateau on which *'Arabgír* is situated. The distance from *Egín* to *'Arabgír* may be about thirty miles in a direction first south and then south-west. There was stated to be a better road from *Hasan O'vah*, avoiding *Egín* and keeping at a distance from the river. *'Arabgír* is fifteen caravan days (about 270 miles) from Aleppo, and only eleven (198 miles) from Trebizond; the route to Trebizond is the more secure. The climate of *'Arabgír* is severe on account of its elevation, and much snow falls in winter. The summers are cool; the harvest was reaping (12th July).¹⁸ The land about *'Arabgír* is good, and wheat was said to yield twelve fold, but on account of there being so much

¹⁸ Exactly two months later than the beginning of the barley harvest at Smyrna, only 37 or 38 miles south of *'Arabgír*. -F. S.

rocky ground producing little or nothing, the quantity of grain grown is not more than sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. The town is situated in the midst of a forest of fruit-trees, among which the white mulberry is the most common, the fruit being eaten, as at Egín, and used for making brandy or petmez¹⁹. There are about 6000 houses, 4800 are Mohammedans and 1200 Armenians. The latter are principally engaged in manufacturing cotton goods from British yarn. The manufacture, which has been introduced of late years only, has extended itself rapidly, and there are now nearly 1000 looms at work. The place is in a thriving condition in consequence, and is one of the most interesting towns in the interior as regards Trebizond.

In the district of Dívrígí, to the north, on the road from Hasan O'vah, there are iron mines, which are not regularly worked, but those who choose are at liberty to extract ore; it is not done on any important scale. At a place called Zeitún on the road to Aleppo, I was informed that there were also iron mines regularly worked, which supplied the surrounding country with metal of an excellent quality.

The road from 'Arabgír to Këbán Ma'den lies over an undulating, open, barren, and uncultivated country, affording only a scanty herbage to a few cattle and sheep. Between 'Arabgír and the Euphrates, a distance of about twenty miles, I passed but one village, with a little cultivation around it. Before reaching the river I fell into the military road, constructed from Sámşún by order of Reshíd Moḥammed Páshá: it appeared to have been made with too great haste and too little labour to promise durability. I crossed the Euphrates by a ferry; there are three boats clumsily constructed but adroitly managed. The stream here is about 120 yards wide, deep and rapid. Two hours above this ferry, the Kárá Şú, or Western Euphrates, which rises near Erz-rúm, is joined by the Murád Cháĩ, or eastern Euphrates, whose sources are in the neighbourhood of Diyádín. The united streams preserve the name of the Murád Cháĩ²⁰ as far as Bír, where the river finally assumes that of Frát²¹.

The town and mine of *Këbán Ma'den*²² are situated in a ravine about half an hour from the ferry; a small stream runs through the valley and joins the Murád Cháĩ, a short distance below the ferry. The town evidently owes its existence to the mine, for there would appear to be no other possible inducement to have fixed it in such a situation. The mountains around exhibit barrenness under its most forbidding aspect, for they produce neither tree nor shrub, nor vegetation of any kind. The ravine is so narrow that there is no space for cultivation, as the mountains unite in it at an acute angle. The climate is extremely hot in summer, and from the elevation of the mountains, a good deal of snow falls in the winter. The town contains about 400 or 500 families, all more or less employed in the working and superintending the mine, or in supplying the wants of the miners and their families. The greater number are Greeks, natives of the mountains, between Gúmish-khánah and Trebizond, but there are likewise some Armenians and

¹⁹ Petmez (properly pekméz) is inspissated grape-juice, a common sweetmeat in the Levant.-F, S.

²⁰ Murad's river, or the wished-for river.

²¹ Properly Forát.

²² Mine of the gorge or pass; Balance-mine.

Turks. The latter are generally the directors of the various departments; the Armenians are artisans, and the Greeks are the miners. There is no trade in the place excepting for the consumption of the inhabitants. The mine is of argentiferous lead, and would appear to be a very unprofitable concern, at least in the hands of the government.

We left *Ḳebán Ma'den* by ascending the ravine in which it is situated, and after riding nine miles, emerged from it and came to a more open and productive country, but still mountainous, crossing which for about ten miles more we descended to a magnificent and well cultivated plain, studded with villages. This plain is extensive; it might perhaps be ten or twelve miles long by about six broad, but we crossed it only in its breadth. A low range of mountains separates this plain from the adjoining one of *Kharpút*. The distance from *Ḳebán Ma'den* to the town of *Kharpút* I estimate at thirty miles, over a good road, direction about southeast.

Kharpút is placed on an eminence at the termination of a range of mountains, but higher parts of the range command it, so that it cannot be regarded as a strong military position. The city overlooks an extensive, beautiful, and productive plain, and was said to contain 1720 families, 1400 Turkish, 300 Armenian, and 20 Catholic; but since it has been the head-quarters of *Reshíd Moḥammed Páshá*, the population must, at the present moment, be much greater. The plain furnishes a vast quantity of grain; its length may be estimated at not less than thirty-six miles; in general it is not above four to six miles broad, but in some parts it expands more; it is of unequal fertility, the centre being well-watered by numerous small streams, is most productive, while near the foot of the mountains on the sloping edges of the plain the land is arid and stony. Wheat returns twelve to sixteen fold. The climate is temperate, being neither excessively warm in summer, nor extremely cold in winter; the productions of the soil are various, consisting of every kind of grain, grapes, wine of a superior quality, oil from seeds, and cotton. The streams of the plain flow eastward until they fall into the *Murád Chái*, which skirting the eastern extremity of the plain, joins the *Ḳará Şú* two hours above the ferry of *Ḳebán Ma'den*.

I was surprised to learn that in this plain the population was generally redundant, a fact I never heard asserted elsewhere in Turkey. At an Armenian village where I lodged, containing eighty families, I was informed that only sixteen had lands, the remainder acted as labourers, and when no employment could be obtained they migrated to the capital or some large city to procure work, leaving their families (as hostages for their return) in penury, if not a burden, to the richer classes. Yet these people are not allowed to remove with their families to parts of the country where inhabitants are thin and spare lands abound. The prohibition to removal is enforced only against Christians, I believe, and it is intended to prevent migration and the diminution of contributors to local taxation, for the head of the family is called upon to pay his portion at the place where his family resides, notwithstanding his necessities oblige him to seek employment elsewhere.

Taken as a whole I had not seen any place, with the exception of Erzingán, approach to the state of apparent prosperity enjoyed by the inhabitants of the plain of Kharpút²³.

Descending from the eminence on which the town of Kharpút is situated, we crossed the plain, in an oblique direction, and ascended a very steep mountain, on the face of which the military road has been continued, but the passage is still very difficult, on account of the extreme rapidity of the ascent, which it took us two hours to accomplish. In another hour we descended to a lake called Geuljik²⁴, which has been generally described as salt, but having tasted the water I can affirm that it is fresh; the lake is about twelve miles long and three or four broad. From thence we passed along a tolerably well cultivated valley to a Kurd village situated at its extremity. The inhabitants appeared to be rich in cattle and ought to be at their ease, from the excellent land under cultivation. We then crossed a beautiful but small plain with two villages in it, and soon

²³ It may be interesting to know something regarding the condition of the agricultural population, and I will state what I learned from an Armenian farmer in the plain of Kharpút. He had ten pair of draught oxen, a few cows and sheep.

The produce was -

Wheat, 375 bushels, valued at 4s.£75
Millet, 50 „, „ 1s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d3
Cotton, 1155 lbs. „ 6d.28
Grapes, 3300 lbs. „ $\frac{4}{10}$ d.6

Sundries, as lentils, beans, seed for oil, butter, &c. all
used in the family or consumed by guests $\frac{50}{2142}$

The Expenditure -

25 bushels of wheat furnished to the mines£25
200 bushels furnished to guests40
495 lbs. of cotton paid to the lord of the Soil12
Tax to the Pasha, ten per cent. $\frac{14}{294}$
Remains for the maintenance of the farmer and his family	$\frac{51}{2142}$

The 50 bushels of millet and 50 bushels of wheat, the grapes and the sundry produce, were consumed by the farmer and his family. The cotton sold, after the lord of the soil had taken his rent, was about sufficient to pay the tax to the Páshá. The man received occasionally something from his guests, which, as it would be paid in money, was probably saved; but this was the statement made by the farmer, and as is universally the case, he no doubt represented his position rather worse than it really was. Nearly two-thirds of the whole produce was thus consumed in rent, taxes, and entertainment of strangers. I was not informed how much land he had in cultivation; there is no measure of land, it is estimated by the quantity of seed used in sowing, or the number of oxen necessary to plough it. They do not manure much, but allow the land to lie fallow every alternate year. Such is the general system of agriculture throughout Armenia.

²⁴ Little Lake, also called *Geukcheh*, i. e. "sky-blue." St. Martin Mém. sur l'Arménie, vol. i. p. 64.-F. S.

engaged in a succession of very difficult mountain passes; here all traces of the military road are lost. In these barren mountains are situated the sources of the Tigris and the copper mine of Arghaná²⁵. There are collected around the latter about 743 families, 270 Greek, 173 Armenian, and 300 Turkish. The first and last are all engaged in directing or working the mines, the Armenians are tradesmen or artisans. From the mine to the town, a distance of about ten miles, in a direction to the eastward of south the road lies over steep, difficult, and barren mountains.

Arghaná is situated under a lofty peak (surmounted by a large Armenian convent) overlooking a vast plain, part of the Arabian desert; it contains about 600 families, one-half Mohammedan and the other Armenian, and appeared in a very dilapidated state. The elevated position of the town gives it the advantage of a cool breeze, while in the plain below the heat is inconvenient. The slope from the town to the plain was occupied by fields and gardens, producing every sort of grain, cotton, fruits, and a very superior wine; the land was stated to be very rich, and wheat to return sixteen fold.

From Arghaná to Diyár-bekr²⁶, we passed over a vast level intersected by a low ridge of limestone hills; but did not see a single village in the whole route, a distance of about 36 miles. We passed, however, some fields of wheat and millet, said to belong to Kurds whose encampment was a little out of the road; the crops appeared very light. We saw only one rill of muddy-water, but was told that excellent water is found by sinking wells to a moderate depth in any part of the plain.

The distance from Kharpút to Diyár-bekr may be estimated at 55 miles in direction about south-east.

*Diyár-bekr*²⁷ is situated on the right bank of the Tigris, and between the river and the town gardens intervene. The area of the city is very considerable, the walls are lofty and substantial, they are constructed of the ruins of more ancient edifices, and surmounted by a castellated parapet to protect musketeers, but they have evidently been built before the use of cannon.

The town in its prosperity contained 40,000 families or houses, and numberless looms in constant work; it enjoyed an active trade with Baghdád in Indian, and with Aleppo in European produce, and was one of the most flourishing and wealthy cities of Asia. The plain was cultivated in every part and covered with villages, and within 3 miles of the gates there were several villages, each containing from 400 to 500 houses, and more than one Christian church.

At present, the number of houses or families in the city is reduced to about 8000, (of which 1500 are Armenian, 85 Catholic, 70 Greek, 50 Jews, and 6300 Turkish); there

²⁵ Or Arghaní, from the Armenian Arghni or Argni. They also form the ridge running in a north-east and south-west direction, between the tributaries to the Euphrates on the west, and the waters of the Tigris on the east, which are here only separated by a distance of about ten miles.-ED.

²⁶ Diyár-Bekr (the tents or dwellings of Bekr), pronounced by the Turks Diyár Bekir, derives its name from Bekr, son of Wáyil, a great-grandson of Rabí'ah, from whom the adjoining division of Al-jezírah (the Peninsula) was named. They all descended through 'Adnán from Ishmael. Pocock's Spec. Hist. Arab. p. 45. Jihán numa, p. 436.

²⁷ The Ancient Amida.-ED.

exist but a few hundred looms, half employed; the trade with Baghdad is annihilated, and that with Aleppo is reduced to insignificance; there are but few merchants and those not wealthy, the people are distressed and without occupation, not a village remains in the whole plain, not a person dares reside without the walls, and the plain is very imperfectly cultivated by Kurds. Until Reshíd Moḥammed Páshá established his authority at Diyár-bekr, the inhabitants were almost in a state of siege, for no one dared to venture without the city, except in company of a caravan, and the communication with Baghdad even by a Tátár was cut off. All this desolation and depopulation was produced by the Kurds, and that too, in the memory of my informant, within 25 years.

The climate, though excessively hot in summer, cannot be considered unhealthy, and in winter the temperature is delightful. I was informed that in the plain wheat would yield a return of 16 fold, and that the scantiness of the crops I had observed was the consequence of great economy in the seed and the negligent mode of cultivation in use by the Kurds.

The situation of Diyár-bekr is admirably calculated for that of a great commercial city, and nothing appears necessary to revive its ancient importance, but a removal of the causes which have occasioned its decline, namely, insecurity and the interruption of its communications with Baghdad.

The Tigris is not used as a channel of transport so high up as Diyár-bekr, but rafts of timber are sometimes floated down from the mountains above the town.

From Diyár-bekr we returned to Kharpút, and thence took the road to Malatíyah. After reaching the extremity of the plain of Kharpút, we crossed a lofty range of mountains covered with small oak trees producing a considerable quantity of gall-nuts, and descended to the banks of the Murád Cháï, where the ruins of a mosque and large cáravanserái exist. From Kharpút to the river is about 30 miles. Half a mile below the cáravanserái, the Euphrates has cut a passage through the main chain of Taurus; whence it continues about 45 miles among the mountains, its course interrupted by rapids and rocks; lofty precipices rising on either side to a very great height. This part of the stream is never passed by rafts of any kind, but when it emerges from the defile it then becomes navigable without any further interruption.

From the ruined cáravanserái we ascended the river for about four miles and crossed it at a ferry called Eiz Oghlú²⁸, from the name of the district. On either bank is a village, both together containing a hundred Kurd families. The inhabitants were apparently poor, and we could scarcely procure any food, but in the evening we saw many cattle returning from the pastures.

*Aspúzi*²⁹ is about 21 miles, in a westerly direction from the Euphrates; it is situated amidst a forest of fruit trees on the side of a mountain, six miles above the town of Malatíyah, the inhabitants of which remove to Aspúzi for seven months, returning for the

²⁸ Eyás O'ghlú?-F. S.

²⁹ Aspúzi is on the bank of the Deir Mesíḥ (Christ-convent), a small stream which joins another failed Bunár-báshí (spring^o head) in the town of Malatíyah.-F.S.

live winter months to Malatíyah: during the summer months, Malatíyah is abandoned to a few persons left to guard the houses, every other inhabitant quitting it. It is singular to see the population of the city transferred, for a portion of the year, to another close by; and no inconvenience in the position of Malatíyah would seem to have forced on the people this extraordinary custom.

Malatíyah and *Aspúzí*, which may be considered as one town, contain 3923 families - 2800 of which are Turkish, and 1123 Armenian. Plague, cholera, and Kurdish depredations have been gradually causing a diminution of the population; and the extensive and fertile plain of Malatíyah is nearly reduced to an uncultivated waste.

Malatíyah, as we saw it, deprived of its inhabitants, was the most desolate-looking place that can be well imagined. Not a living creature was to be met, and the streets were overgrown with grass.

The ancient walls are in ruins, and in most parts have fallen down; the houses have a mean appearance; the shops in the *bāzār* are mere mud-stalls. I saw two well-built mosques and two caravanserais, all in the Persian style of architecture. I passed through the city, and on leaving it by a handsome gate I observed the people appointed as guards of the houses, whose appearance did but augment the melancholy impression the situation of the city had excited.

From the city, we traversed the plain down to the Tokhmah Şú, we crossed by a bridge³⁰, three or four miles below which the river falls into the Murád Chái. A causeway on arches is united to either end of the bridge, extending across the valley in which the stream flows, and indicating an occasional great rise of the river. About seven miles from the Tokhmah Şú³¹, we came to another stream, named the Chámúrlú Şú³², flowing through a deep narrow valley, well cultivated and irrigated by the waters of the river; it also falls in the Murád Chái. I passed in the plain a column of stone, which marks the half-distance between Constantinople and Baghdád. There was likewise in the plain a ruined Khán.

*Hasan Baṭrík*³³ is a village situated at the extremity of the plain, which, in a north westerly direction, is about sixteen miles broad; the length of the plain which accompanies the course of the Tokhmah Şú, flowing about east and west, must be very considerable. *Hasan Baṭrík* contains fifty Mohammedan families. Here are the ruins of a handsome mosque and caravanserai, built of freestone in the Persian style of architecture.

The plain, except in the valleys of the river, was a waste, and yet there could be no other reason for its being so, but the insecurity of the country. The fields around the village seemed productive in grain, and some cotton is grown.

Immediately on quitting *Hasan Baṭrík*, I entered a defile, in which runs the Chámúrlú Şú. The mountains are lofty, but not very steep, they are covered with small

³⁰ Called *Kırk-geuz*, "Forty-eyes". Jim. Numá, p. 600.

³¹ Boundary-water.

³² Mud-water.

³³ Patriarch *Hasan*.

oak bushes; the valley is narrow. I crossed the stream at about fifteen miles, and after ascending a very steep and high mountain came to Hákım Khán, situated a short way down the opposite side. The distance from Hasan Baṭrık to Hákım Khán, I estimate at about eighteen or twenty miles; the road mountainous but not difficult: at the place where we forded the river, the water was girth deep; in the spring it is both difficult and dangerous to cross, and it is seldom that any persons but Tátárs make the attempt. The total distance from Malatıyah to Hákım Khán is about thirty-six miles, on a general bearing of north-west.

Hákım Khán is a small and apparently poor town, it contains about 250 Turkish, and 35 Armenian families. There is an old castle; and a Khán in the Persian style, said to have been built by a doctor, and hence its name. The country around is mountainous and arid, the rocks are all limestone. Vines do not thrive, on account of the severity of the winter; a small quantity of hardy fruits and tobacco is grown. Wheat yields six to eight fold.

Thus far from Diyár-bekr I had followed the high Constantinople-road, which continues onwards in the same north-west direction, while I took a more westerly course to Ghurun. Leaving Hákım Khán, we crossed mountains, valleys, and streams, without following any beaten track, and finally came again to the Tokhmah Şú, which we had quitted near Malatıyah, having made a circuit of the Agjá Dágh³⁴ Mountains. I followed the course of the Tokhmah Şú, in a northerly direction for about five miles, till I arrived at Ghurun, a little above which town the principal branch of this river has its source.

The distance from Hákım Khán to Ghurun I reckoned forty-five miles, on a general bearing of west.

Ghurun is situated in a deep narrow valley, whose eastern side rises in a precipice, the western slopes, and is cultivated where the ground permits. A stream runs through the valley, which is filled along both its banks with trees and gardens, amidst which the principal part of the houses are situated. The town contains 850 Turkish, 860 Armenian, and 63 Catholic Armenian families; the only instance of a town in the interior, in which the Christian exceeds the Mohammedan population. The winter is severe, the summer short, and the cultivation of the soil would not appear to be a favourite or profitable pursuit. The inhabitants indiscriminately are engaged in a trade with the migratory tribes of Turkomans and Kurds, who, in their migrations from near Angora, where they winter, pass several weeks in pastures around Ghurun, at distances of from six to eighteen hours. The traders of the town supply all the wants of these migratory tribes, and receive in payment the produce of their flocks and herds, which they either use, re-export, re-sell on the spot, or manufacture. The principal article is sheep's wool, of which a large quantity is bought and sold here.

From Ghurun I ascended the steep eastern side of the valley, and travelled over a mountainous tract, the hollows of which abound in fine pastures, the summits being bare limestone. These pastures are said to extend to the neighbourhood of

³⁴ Hâji Tâgh? Tâgh is commonly pronounced Dagh.

Ḳaïsariyyeh.³⁵ In spring they are luxuriant, but they were now dried up, having been in the early part of the year fed down by the herds and flocks of the Kurds.

Manjelik, at 25 miles from Ghurun, in a northerly direction, is a small village, and the only one on the road; it formerly contained above 100 families, but all the Turks abandoned it from the depredations of the Kurds, and 15 Armenian families only now remain, induced to do so by the presence of a very ancient church dedicated to Saint Thórós, which is a place of pilgrimage and of peculiar sanctity. Here is much more land than the inhabitants have the power to cultivate, and they occupy only the best, and that nearest the village, which is situated in a valley watered by a small rivulet, and the land appeared good; wheat yields ten to twelve fold. The climate is extremely rigorous in winter, and a great deal of snow falls, the summers are short and not warm, though the grain produced is very fine; the peasants are well supplied with butter from their herds, and wool from their flocks, but their butter and grain are mostly consumed by guests, who frequently do not pay for their entertainment. I lodged in a house belonging to four brothers, all of whom had received five wounds each, in defending themselves and their property against Kurdish aggression. Páshás and Āghás did not vex them much, because the village is the only one between U'lásh and Ghurun, a distance of 54 miles, which would be totally impassable in winter for caravans without the shelter afforded here; and a fear of the inhabitants abandoning a post so essential to the communications, prevented their experiencing the usual quantum of vexation and spoliation.

From Manjelik to U'lásh, a distance of about thirty miles on a a general bearing of north by west, the same sort of pastures are to be found as described from Ghurun to Manjelik, without however a single village; but there did not appear to me any other impediment to both villages and cultivation than the depredations of the Kurds.

U'lásh is inhabited solely by Armenians, and contains sixty families. It stands about eighteen miles south-west of Sívás. The soil is deep and rich, wheat yielding ten to twelve fold. In a hollow in the plain, which is filled to the depth of a foot or two with water in winter, but was now dry, were incrustations of salt. The people appeared to be very much at ease in their circumstances.

On the road from hence to Sívás there are two large salt-works: the salt is procured from springs; the surrounding country is supplied from them, and the government is said to derive considerable revenue from the works, which belong to it. The country from U'lásh till I reached the plain of Sívás was mountainous, not entirely without cultivation, but I did not pass any village.

*Sívás*³⁶, situated in a plain from four to six miles in breadth by perhaps sixteen to twenty in length, is remarkable for producing good crops of grain of a very superior quality. The plain is watered by the Ḳızıl İrmák³⁷, which though not remote from its

³⁵ Kaïsar, for Kaïssariyyeh, is only used by the common people.

³⁶ Sívás is on the site of the ancient Sebaste, and is capital o Γ the Páshálik (Eyálet) of the satne name.-
Ed. la Armenian Sepasdia, Sevasdia, and vulgarly *Sevasd*.

³⁷ Red River (Halys).

sources, is here a considerable stream, and within a distance of five or six miles has two broad stone bridges over it. Timber for building and fuel is brought down by it, from the forests in the mountains in which the river rises. The climate is severe though remarkably healthy.

The town covers a large area, but within it are many ruins; it contains about 5000 Turkish and 1200 Armenian families.

Many of the old mosques and kháns prove the town to have been once under Persian dominion.

The position of Sívás is a very excellent one for an important commercial city. The access to it from the Black Sea is easy, and has been facilitated by the military road made by Reshíd Moḥammed Páshá. It is situated in the centre of a district abounding in the first necessities of life, and of a country which would require extensive supplies. The route by Sívás is certainly the best to reach Malátíyah, Kharpút, and Diár-bekr, and I may add Baghdád.

The bázárs are extensive and the kháns numerous, both being well, supplied with goods.

From Sívás, after quitting the plain, the road crosses a country abounding in extensive plains, separated by ranges of mountains generally of a low elevation. The distance to Kaïsariyyeh is about eighty-four miles in a direction nearly south-west. The plains are well cultivated and the country better peopled than most other parts; the soil is fertile, and wheat yields a return of from ten to sixteen fold.

I reached Kaïsariyyeh two days after it had been visited by an earthquake, and I found it nearly deserted. The inhabitants had taken refuge in the villages, or were outside the town under tents. It was fortunate that the calamity occurred at a period of the year when so many of the inhabitants reside in the country, or the loss of life would have been more considerable. About 150 persons were killed in the town, and it was calculated that in the villages about 400 perished. Many houses were shaken down, and scarcely one escaped damage.

Kaïsariyyeh, the ancient Cæsarea³⁸, is situated at the foot of the mighty and constantly snow-capped Mount Erjish (Argæus) rising probably to the height of 10,000 feet above the sea³⁹; the ruins of a more ancient town are close by, which was destroyed by an earthquake. The city is surrounded by a wall quite dilapidated, and has a castle within, on the same level as the city; neither could offer any resistance to cannon. In the environs, as well as within the town, there are many buildings which bear evidence of a Persian occupation.

³⁸ Capital of Ancient Cappadocia, and then called Mazaca; afterwards changed to Cæsarea, in the time of Tiberius. -ED. In Armenian, Mazhag or Mishag, from its founder Meshag.

³⁹ In the year 1834, a gentleman from the United States, travelling in this country, ascended Mount Erjish; he was accompanied by guides, and they reached the summit in safety. In descending, the traveller, against the advice of his guides, took what appeared to him a shorter path; the rest of the party followed the track of their ascent. The unfortunate gentleman fell, and was so severely hurt, that, although his comrades conducted him alive to the village where he resided, he soon died of the injuries he had received.

The climate is warm in summer and not severe in winter, yet it is not reckoned very healthy. There are to be found here the productions of a warm climate, as melons, figs, pomegranates, grapes, &c. The plain did not strike me as either fertile, or well cultivated, except just around the town. The base of the mountain is covered with gardens, which produce fruits and the yellow berry⁴⁰ used in dyeing, for which Kaïsariyyeh is so celebrated.

The mountain supplies timber for building, firewood and charcoal, all which are reasonable in price. The town contains 8000 houses - 5000 Turkish, 2500 Armenian, and 500 Greek. The villages in the neighbourhood are large and populous, and the Christian inhabitants display their riches and luxury in their country residences more than in any other part of Turkey.

This is the principal commercial mart in the central part of Asia Minor; its natives are remarkable for their enterprise and activity, and they are found assiduously following their pursuits in the remotest corner of the empire. Of late years the importance of the place has very much declined, owing to the insecurity of the country on account of the Kurds.

The central part of Asia Minor is generally deficient in wood, for except in some of the recesses of the mountains, where scattered forests may be found, scarce a tree is to be seen throughout the country. Dried cowdung is the fuel principally used in cities by the poorer classes, and universally so by the villagers.

Throughout Asia Minor it is very usual to find rye growing among wheat, but I never saw a whole field of rye.

The distance from Kaïsariyyeh to Yúzgát⁴¹ I reckon about 96 miles on a general bearing of north by west. The country is neither fertile, populous, nor well cultivated, but there are parts in which both villages and cultivation are found, and without doubt this would be the case more generally, were it not for the Kurds, those destroyers of everything like civilization.

Twice during this part of my route I fell in with bands of Kurds; the villagers were all obliged to watch their fields during the night, lest the sheep and cattle should be turned into them, or the grain which was cut should be carried away. In the spring migration of the Kurds, the young crops are often eaten by their sheep, which are so numerous that a field is speedily cleared, and thus the poor peasant's hopes of a harvest are totally destroyed, or perhaps his crops, which had escaped the danger in spring, are reserved only to be plundered in the autumn.

At *Boäslían*, a village on the road, a great deal of nitre is produced. The soil is strongly impregnated with it.

⁴⁰ *Rhamnus infectorius*.

⁴¹ Yúz-kát, i.e. hundred roofs? It is spelt Yuzghat by M. Lapie, and was not known to Major Rennell. There are several different and nearly parallel routes from Angora to Tókát.-F. S.

The land here is very arid, and wheat only yields five fold: indeed the whole tract from Kaïsariyyeh to Yúzgát is one of the least productive parts of Asia Minor, and as deficient in trees as all the high land of Armenia.

Yúzgát grew into importance under the fostering care of the Chapán O'ghlú family, who fixed their residence here, and from an insignificant village it became a considerable and flourishing town. It is the neatest and cleanest I saw in Turkey, and is walled. There were some guns to protect the gates, but when the family were removed, the guns were conveyed to Constantinople. The walls served only to protect the inhabitants from the attacks of marauders or irregular troops. The town is in a narrow valley, and is commanded on all sides.

The founder of the Chapán O'ghlú family was a petty Turkomán chief, who by superior address and courage raised himself to the rank of a powerful Dereh Bey, commanding a district which extended over a great portion of Anatolia, and might be called a small principality, which he ruled with sovereign sway. The family maintained its position for two generations, but the third generation were created páshás, removed from their hereditary possessions, and from that moment lost their influence, while their riches became the prey of the Sultán and his court. The father of the present generation was a liberal and magnificent chief, and he spent his princely revenues in supporting his station with dignity and boundless hospitality. Yúzgát is now governed by a rapacious Musellim,⁴² and having no manufactures, arid no other produce than grain, is reduced to an insignificant provincial town, while the inhabitants regret their former munificent lords.

A little to the right of the direct road to Tokát from Yúzgát, and about thirty or forty miles from the latter, there is an argentiferous lead mine, called Aḵ Dágh Ma'den⁴³, from the mountain in which it is situated. I saw the director at Yúzgát, and he informed me that about 300 families were employed in the various operations connected with the mine; that since he had the direction it had produced considerably more silver than before, and that he believed a more scientific method of mining would be the means of extracting a much greater quantity of ore at less expense.

I think the quantity of silver he stated to have sent to Constantinople was 300 okes, or 825 lbs., valued at about 3000l. sterling.

From Yúzgát I made an excursion to visit some ruins, which were stated to be very extensive, and never to have been visited by any European. They lay in the direction of Boghaz Keuj, which I had determined to visit, as near it are some ruins and sculptured rocks, which had been discovered by M. Texier the preceding year. I reached the small village of Netiz, which is three hours from Yúzgát in a north-westerly direction. In the village itself are numerous blocks of marble, used in the construction of the cottages, and many of them have letters and words cut on them. In the burying-ground of the village are innumerable marble fragments of columns, and various parts of ancient buildings. There were two funeral inscriptions, of the Christian era, proved by the names

⁴² Governor.

⁴³ White-Mount-Mine.

as well as by the form of the letters. On a conical hill near, called by the villagers the Castle, were two pieces of marble which had been discovered; they formed part of the cornice of a roof, and were handsomely sculptured. They had fallen together, and were still united; evidently showing that they must have belonged to a building on the spot. At the foot of this conical hill had been excavated the remains of a building, formed of large stones, which had been faced with marble. So small a part was excavated, that the purport of the building could not be ascertained. From another conical hill in face an immense quantity of marble blocks had been excavated, and used in building a mosk at Yúzgát. Not far from thence were some stones of immense size, which apparently have formed the posts of a gate and partly of a wall. The natives told me they found medals, but I could not procure any from them; they said they did not preserve them, as they were only copper. From this place I directed my course to Boghaz Keuj, which was about four hours distant. I reached it late in the evening; next morning I hired a guide, and visited, first the sculptured rocks, which are about a mile and a half from the village. This is a natural inclosure of immense masses of limestone rock, from forty to fifty feet high, apparently fallen from the mountains immediately above, and have assumed the form of a parallelogram, of twenty yards long by ten wide, on which are sculptured figures. They have been in many parts nearly obliterated by the effects of the weather; in some parts, however, the objects are quite distinct. The long line of smaller figures is about three feet in height, then come five larger figures; there are two principal ones joining hands. One of them is backed by three others, and all are standing on the backs of animals. Then comes a line of smaller figures, and at the end, on a rock by itself, is the principal figure standing on two mountains, and holding in its right hand an emblem like an Egyptian symbol of eternity - a circle with wings.

Monsieur Texier has made some beautiful drawings from these interesting remains, but they give you an idea of a greater degree of preservation than the figures are in.

From thence I crossed over a ravine, and at the distance of half a mile came to the site of a vast building. The lower foundations alone exist, but sufficient to trace the plan, which is in the form of a parallelogram. The stones are of great size, and are rough externally. Around the hills are remains of walls, buildings, and gates, but in a very dilapidated state, and of a very rough construction. Both these ruins are worthy the examination of an antiquarian, to which title I have no pretensions⁴⁴.

The distance from Yúzgát to Tókát is about 100 miles, in an east-north-east direction. The country is a succession of plains separated by low hills. The plains are well peopled and well cultivated, entirely bare of trees, but they are as productive in grain as any I had seen. The climate is moderate in summer, and cold in winter. Wheat was said to yield, in the most fertile parts, ten to twelve-fold, and in others seven to eight-fold. I met with some tribes of Turkománs which do not migrate; they encamp in

⁴⁴ I should have examined these ruins more thoroughly, but I was told at Erz-rúm, by a companion of M. Texier, that a full account of the ruins had been published at Paris.

the open plains from spring to autumn, and in winter retreat to some sheltered nook on the edge of the plain, building walls against the declivity of a hill and covering them with their tents, as a roof. They are not rich, do not plunder boldly, but are addicted to pilfering. The plains are well watered by small streams.

*Ard Ovah*⁴⁵, the last great plain before reaching Tókát, contains about seventy villages, and produces an incredible quantity of grain.

After quitting this plain I came to a mountainous tract with less cultivation and more thinly inhabited, which finally led me through a long, steep, narrow and rocky defile, down to Tókát.

*Tókát*⁴⁶ is placed at the mouth of the defile, which widens a little on approaching the city, on the bank of a small stream, but so surrounded on three sides, by lofty mountains, that the heat concentrated in the narrow valley rendered the place, while I was in it, intolerable. The valley from about three miles above the town is filled with gardens and vineyards, and a number of rills of water run through it. The town is not esteemed healthy, autumnal fevers being very prevalent. It contains 6730 families, of which 5000 are Turks, 1500 Armenians, 30 Roman Catholics, 50 Jews, and 150 Greek. The Armenians and Catholics are in general very rich, or at least the wealthiest persons are to be found among them.

As a commercial mart, the importance of Tókát has passed away, the numerous fine kháns are empty, and there did not appear any symptoms of its being an active commercial city. The roads from thence to Constantinople and to Sámşún are very excellent. The military road from Sámşún to Kharpút passes through it.

From Tókát I bent my course to Trebizond with all possible dispatch, in order to meet the Right Honourable Henry Ellis there; and as I stopped only to rest and change horses, I had but little leisure to make inquiries on the road.

The line of road from Tókát takes an easterly direction running parallel to the Black Sea, amidst the ranges of the mountains which rise from the plains of Jáník, and which are scarcely lower than the central table-land of Asia Minor; the mountain contains large forests; many fine plains exist, and they are tolerably well peopled and cultivated. There are some considerable towns and numerous villages. The whole tract lies out of the route of Kurd migration, and there is consequently no want of security; altogether it is a beautiful, fertile, and prosperous portion of Asia Minor.

Níksár is distant about 27 miles east of Tókát: between them a range of well-wooded mountains intervenes. Níksár contains a population of about 1000 houses; it is situated on the eastern side of a very extensive and remarkably rich plain, watered by the very considerable river of Chár-shambah. Rice is cultivated extensively in the plain. The town is situated amidst a forest of fruit-trees. The climate is warm. There are the remains of the old Roman⁴⁷ town wall, and of a castle of the same period.

⁴⁵ Back-plain," pronounced Art-ova. The Turks throw the emphasis on the last syllable, and pronounce final soft consonants hard.-F. S.

⁴⁶ From the Armenian Evtogia (Eudocia).

⁴⁷ Neo-Cæsarea, i. e. New Cæsarea.-ED.

From Níksár the road ascends a very lofty range of mountains. The summit is far above the region of trees, and must be above 6000 feet high; crossing this, we continued among the mountains at a little lower elevation, and among forests and meadows, until we descended once more at Kuleh-*hişár* to the Chár-shambah Şú, along the banks of which the road continues until it quits them to ascend to the town of *Ķará-*hişár**, the position of which is very elevated.

*Ķará-*hişár**⁴⁸ is distant from Níksár about 70 miles; it contains 2500 houses, and has a considerable trade with the coast and the interior. Kerahsún is the port on the Black Sea with which its communications are most active, and is distant about 60 miles. There is an old castle on the summit of the isolated mountain, around which the town is built. Near this town there are extensive mines of rock-alum, from which the town takes the distinctive appellation of Shebb-kháneh⁴⁹, there being several other cities in Turkey called *Ķará-*hişár**, or Black Castle.

At a small village called Uleh, in the district of Shírván, 48 miles east of *Ķará-*hişár**, I left the high eastern road leading through Erz-rúm, and turned northward towards Trebizond. Between Uleh and Gúmish-kháneh the mountains are more steep and difficult than any I had seen in Asia Minor, except in the Ajerah Valley.

*Gúmish-kháneh*⁵⁰, a town on the banks of the river Kharshút, has grown up around the mines of argentiferous lead in the neighbourhood. The mines were once rich in silver, but the produce now is very small. The system pursued by the government, rather than the want of ore, has occasioned the falling off of the produce. At one time there were 40 furnaces in full employment, there are now only two.

The whole district abounds in ores of copper and lead; few mines are worked, and those which are produce little to the government, from the ruinous system of management pursued.

It is difficult, upon a hasty and extensive journey like this, to give a very accurate or concise summary of the different points I endeavoured to investigate.

The central table-land of Armenia is a fertile corn country, and abounds also in pastures. The slopes of the mountains supporting this table-land are wooded, and the plains at their base rich. The climate on the shores of the Black Sea is temperate, on those of the Mediterranean extremely hot, while in the central parts it is cold, on account of their great elevation. The country is throughout well watered with streams. The passes from the coast to the interior are difficult and easily defensible.

The population is scanty: the greatest portion of the inhabitants are Turks, who find employment as soldiers, civil functionaries, cultivators, merchants and artisans. The next in number, or perhaps not inferior to the Turks, are the Kurds, who live in separate tribes, and wander with their sheep and cattle over the country, from the mountains to the plains, according to the seasons, for the sake of pastures, without, in general, other

⁴⁸ Black Castle.

⁴⁹ Shebb-kháneh, the alum-office, or alum-works.

⁵⁰ Silver-works.

habitations than their tents. They are warlike, always wear arms, are addicted to plunder, and have been, until lately, scarcely more than nominally dependent on the Sultán. It is the object of Reshíd Mohammed Páshá's operations to reduce them to a more complete obedience.

The Armenians, the original inhabitants, are generally engaged in commercial pursuits in the towns, or are cultivators of the land; they are prohibited from carrying arms, and are not called upon to act in the capacity of soldiers or civil functionaries. They are Christians, and I estimate they may form about one-third of the number of the Turkish, and one-seventh of the whole population.

Besides the above, there are in various parts of Asia Minor a few tribes of Turkománs, the remnant of the conquerors who overran the country. They still preserve their pastoral habits, and very much resemble the Kurds.

The roads are merely tracks formed by the constant passage of travellers and of caravans; they are numerous, and in general sufficiently well marked. In the mountains they are always the same, but in the plains they frequently vary their course, according to the changes which occur in the cultivation of the land. The only exception is the military road lately made by Reshíd Mohammed Páshá, from Şámşún to Diyár-Bekr, a distance of nearly 400 miles, for the transport of his artillery.

The raw productions of the country are grains of various kinds, wool of sheep and goats, silk, gall-nuts, hides, skins, and gums.

The mines yield copper, lead, silver, iron, alum, and salt.

There is a good deal of manufacturing industry, and various articles are made both of cotton and wool, which are partly consumed in the country, and partly exported to Georgia and the Crimea.

By a series of barometrical observations in the city of Erz-rúm during the month of December, 1830, registered generally twice a day, we have-

English inches.		Thermom, attached.		Fahrenheit detached.
Highest	24.776	- 40	- 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	Dec.16, at 9 A.M.
Owest	24.552	- 47	- 33	21, ,,
Mean	24.620	- 44	- 26 $\frac{1}{4}$	

during which month the mean of 31 double observations at Trebizond gave,

Barometer	30.038	- 55.8	- 56.2
-----------	--------	--------	--------

If these observations may be relied upon (and there is no reason to doubt them), the height of the plain of Erz-rum above the sea cannot exceed from 5000 to 5300 feet, and which, we have very little doubt, will be found near the truth.

ITINERARY.

From Trebizond to Batúm the distance is 60 hours, or as many leagues. It can only be performed in boats; there are no practicable roads.

From Batúm to

	Hours.
Chórúksú	4
Jaghat	5
Didewaghi	7
Akho	7
Kulah	7
Danesvorola	5
Digwir	9
Louramel	5
Ardahán	8
Kars	16

There are no regular posts on this route, and the distances are stated as paid for. Sometimes they could not be performed in the number of hours, on account of bad roads and bad horses.

	Hours
Karahamza	8
Mezingherd	10
Khorassan	4
Hasanhaleh	8
Erz-rum	6
	-36
Yenkkeui	10
Karghan	10
Erzinghean	12
Kamakh	12
Herhemeh	10
Edin	12
Arab-gir	10
Kebban-Maden	10
Kharput	10
Argana Maden 12 hours	
Argana town	15
Diyar-Bekr	12
	-123
Eezoglu	12
Aspusi (Malatia)	6
	-18
Hakim-khan	14
Ghurun	15
Manjilik	9
Ulash	9
Sivas	6
	-53
Saghileh	12
Gemerck	6
Kaissar	12
	-30
Boäslan	12
Pasha keuj	10
Yuzgat	10
	-32
Mughalleh	9
Yangeh	6
Saleh Serai	6
Tókát	12
	-33
Niksar	9
Kuleh-hisar	12
Kara-hisar	12
Ulehsheran	16
Gumish-khaneh	12
Trebizond	18
	-79

There are posts established, hut the horses are bad.
The hours on this part of the route are longer distances than usual, and could with difficulty be performed in the time.

The hours here are easily accomplished in the time, butr the horses are for the most part indifferent.

There is no change in

Post.
No posts, being across the country.
No horses.

Good road. and done within

Good road. and horses tolerable.

Excellent road, and fair horses.

To Ulehsheran the road is generally good, though mountainous, and the horses very fair. From thence to Tradizond the road is the worst I ever travelled; a continuation of precipitous mountains. The horses from Gumishkhaneh are wretched in the extreme.