

part of the hill N. of this entrance, is a kind of citadel, and contains several halls, distinguished with the royal ornament of a gilded cupola: there is an upper citadel, formerly used as a state prison for princes of the blood; but as fortresses both are contemptible. In the centre of the city is an open square, whence issue four bazaars, with shops about two stories high; the houses are constructed of sun-dried bricks and wood, but few of them have any pretensions to elegance. Caubul is, however, a bustling place; the chief mart of trade in the country; and its bazaars are superior to most in the E.: the great bazaar is a handsome roofed arcade 600 ft. long by 30 ft. broad. Each different trade has its separate quarter. Provisions in summer are moderate, but both wood and grain are dear in winter. Its climate, and the scenery around it, are both very fine; the banks of its river are beautifully adorned with poplar, willow, and mulberry; but the most pleasing spot in its vicinity is the tomb of the Emperor Baber, who made Caubul his capital. His grave is marked by two erect slabs of white marble, situated in a small garden at the summit of a hill overlooking the city: outside Caubul also stands the tomb of Timour Shah, an unfinished octagonal brick building 50 ft. high.

In the 7th century of our era, the Arabian writers mention Caubul as the residence of a Hindoo prince; it was, as already stated, the capital of the empire of Baber, and taken by Nadir Shah in 1739. At his death it was taken by Ahmed Shah Abdalli, and remained the capital of Afghanistan till the destruction of the monarchy.

The chiefship of Caubul extends N. to the Hindoo Koosh and Baumeen; E. to Neemla half way to Peshawur; S. to Ghiznee, which city it includes; and W. to the country of the Hazarehs. Much of the country is mountainous, and of great natural strength but small resources; there is plenty of fruit, and forage for cattle, but grain grows scantily. The revenues of Caubul amount to 18 lacs rupees a year: those derived from the city customs are 2 lacs annually, which amount they have reached in consequence of the encouragement given to trade by the lately deposed khan.

CAUCASUS, a great mountain-range, extending in a NW. and SE. direction, between the Black and Caspian Seas. Its extreme points are those of the main ridge or back bone of the system, which, commencing at Anape, on the Black Sea, in lat. $44^{\circ} 50'$ N., runs first SE. as far as the parallel of $42^{\circ} 50'$, and meridian of $40^{\circ} 45'$; then almost due E. to the long. of 46° , and finally, again SE. to Baku, on the Caspian Sea, in lat. $40^{\circ} 20'$, where it terminates. The direct distance between Anape and Baku is 690 m., but, following its windings, the ridge of the Caucasus measures 800 m. The extent of the mountains towards the N. is very well marked by the courses of the rivers Kuban and Terek; the one flowing W., along the basis to the Black Sea, the other E. to the Caspian. The natural S. limit is the Araxes; so that the breadth of this range, in its widest part, is about 5° , or nearly 350 m.; and in its narrowest, along the shores of the Caspian, not much short of 250 m. The area enclosed by these two seas and three rivers, taken as the boundaries of the Caucasian system, is not less than 100,000 sq. m., but it must be remarked, that within these limits there is, though not much, some level land; and that the least elevation is found, not in the bed of the Araxes, but in that of the Kur. (Klaproth's Trav. in Cauc. and Georg., p. 158, *et seq.*; Mignan's Winter

Journey through Russia, i. 27, *et seq.*; Col. Montei's (Geog. Journ., iii. 21-57.)

The highest peak of the Caucasus attains an altitude of 17,785 ft., which is more than 2,000 ft. higher than Mont Blanc. (Bontzko's Lettres sur le Caucasse, p. 23.) This peak, or rather mountain-knot, is found nearly at the intersection of the 43rd parallel with the 42nd meridian. Among European geographers it has been called, improperly enough, Elbours, Elbounz, or Elbounz; a name which, in the spread of information concerning E. countries, is likely to be productive of no little confusion. It is already applied to a peak of the Caucasus, and a range on the S. of the Caspian Sea, and may, unless care be taken, be multiplied indefinitely, since it is not a proper name, but a common designation for any mountain which reaches the snow line. (Klaproth, p. 170.) From this point, as from a centre, the mountains descend in all directions, but much more rapidly towards the N. and W. than towards the E. and S. (Klaproth, p. 276.) The Mquinvari peak, to which the Russians have improperly given the name of Kasbek, is said by Klaproth to attain an elevation of 4,419 metres, or of 14,500 ft. (Lettres sur la Caucasse, p. 40.) Farther E., the ridge declines towards the Caspian; and where it approaches that sea, as in the Cape of Absharon, or at the town of Derbend, the eminences do not probably exceed 1,500 or 2,000 ft. The ridge W. from Elbours is very considerably lower, and presents fewer peaks; it appears to descend gradually, till at Anape, on the Black Sea, its elevation is only about 180 feet above the water; but this height rises perpendicularly, and the face of the rock is continued downwards for several hundred fathoms; such being the depth of the sea at this point. The N. ranges run nearly parallel to the main ridge, and extend about 100 m., when they suddenly and abruptly terminate in the low steppe of the Don and Wolga. This frontier, as it may be termed, of the Caucasus, is called the Black Mountains (Schernye Gory). The Bechtag, the highest point, is probably not less than 6,000 ft. in height, and there are several summits which appear to have a nearly equal elevation; extreme ruggedness is, however, a stronger characteristic of these hills than altitude. The Elbours (Osha Makhua) appeared to Pallas to rise in the horizon to more than double the height of the Bechtag, when viewed from a station very near the base of the latter. S. of the main chain, the country spreads into table-lands, terraces, and slopes, broken and intersected by transverse ranges and peaks, of which last the highest is Ali Guz, in $40^{\circ} 10'$ N., $44^{\circ} 40'$ E., its elevation being about 15,000 ft. About 50 m. S. of this, but on the other side of the Araxes, is Mount Ararat; but it cannot with any propriety be reckoned as part of the Caucasus. Towards the SE., between the Kur and Araxes, the mountains spread into a level but considerably elevated plain, 24 m. in width, and terminated by a strong defile towards Erivan. The various plains, valleys, and defiles of this part of the mountains seem to vary between 4,000 and 6,000 ft. in height. On the N. the Caucasus is absolutely unconnected with any other mountain-range, unless the chain of the Crimea may be regarded as an exception; but on the S. it mingles with the high land of Azerbaijan; on the SW. it combines with the mountains of Armenia, and through them with the Taurus; and on the SE. its offshoots appear to be continued by the mountains of Ghilan and Mazanderan, to the Elbours (Persian), Paropamisian, Hindoo Koosh, and Himalayas. (Guldenstadt, Reise durch Russland,