

and carrots; melons and cucumbers are abundantly grown in the neighbourhood of the towns; and ginger, turmeric, and the sugar-cane in the E.; but the latter plant is confined to rich plains, and most of the sugar, as well as the cotton, used in Caubul is brought from India. The palma Christi, sesamum, and mustard, are grown for the sake of their oil; tobacco is cultivated in most parts; madder abounds in the W.; and Caubul furnishes to India its chief supply of that article: lucerne and other artificial grasses are sown for the cattle. Much of the land fit for culture has been brought into that state by irrigations undertaken by individuals singly, or associated for the purpose. Cultivable land in Caubul is generally valued at from nine to twelve years' purchase. Irrigation is effected by means of canals and subterranean conduits, beneath the slopes of hills, termed *caurais*, which are common in Persia. The plough is heavier and makes deeper furrows than that of India, but still only employs one pair of oxen. All grain is sown broadcast; and drill husbandry is unknown. The place of a harrow is supplied by a plank dragged over the field, on which a man stands. The sickle is the only instrument used for reaping. The flail is unknown; and the corn is trodden out by oxen, or forced out by a frame of wood filled with branches, on which a man sits, and is dragged over the straw by cattle. It is winnowed by being thrown against the wind, and, when cleaned, is kept in hampers plastered with mud, unbaked earthen pots, and coarse hair-cloth bags.

For grinding the corn, windmills are used in the W., but these are very different from ours, for the sails are inside, and there is an opening in the erection to admit the wind. Water-mills are not unknown, but handmills are most generally used. The manure employed is composed of dung, straw, and ashes, but the dung of camels is carefully avoided. Horses are employed in ploughing only by the Eimaaks; in Seistan camels perform this work. There are no carts. The horses of Herat are very fine, and somewhat similar to the Arabian breed; and there is a strong and useful breed of ponies, especially about Baumeen. Mules preferable to those of India; but asses, camels, and dromedaries mostly are used for carriage. The ox resembles that of India; sheep chiefly of the broad-tailed kind; and the goats, which are numerous, have often long and tortuous horns. The greyhounds and pointers are excellent. A great number of horses are annually sold in the N. and W. of India, under the name of Caubul and Candahar breeds; but no horses are bred in large numbers in Caubul, nor are those of Candahar exported in any quantity.

Trade.—Exports.—The principal foreign trade is with India, Persia, and Toorkistan: the exports to the first-named country are principally horses and ponies; furs, shawls, chintz; madder, assafetida, tobacco, and fruits: those to Toorkistan are shawls, turbans, chintz, white cloth, indigo, and other Indian produce: to Persia the same articles, with the carpets of Herat. The latter-named article, with woollens, furs, madder, cheese, and some piece-goods, are sent from the W. to the E. provs.; and Bhawupoor and Mooltan cloths, silk, cotton, and indigo, are sent back in return. Iron, salt, alum, sulphur, and the other natural produce, are also exported.

Imports.—From India are coarse cotton cloths, worn by the mass of the people; muslins, silks, and brocade; indigo, in great quantities; ivory, chalk, bamboos, wax, tin, sandal-wood, sugar, and spices: from Toorkistan, horses, gold, and silver; cochineal, broad cloth, and tinsel: cast-iron pots, cutlery, hardware, and other European articles,

from Russia, *via* Bokhara. Silks, cottons, embroidery, and Indian chintz come from Persia; slaves from Arabia and Abyssinia; silks, satins, tea, porcelain, dyes, and the precious metals, from the Chinese dominions; and dates and cocoa-nuts from Beloochistan. The merchants are chiefly Tadjiks, Persians, or Affghans, and Hindkees in the E.; but no Affghan ever keeps a shop, or exercises any handicraft trade. Caubul is the great mart for the trade with Toorkistan; Peshawur for that with the Punjab; and Candahar and Herat for that with Persia. The demand for British manufactures has increased so much latterly, that Russia, which before 1816 supplied a great many articles, now only sends nankeen and broad chintz, of a description not manufactured in Britain, into the market. The greater part of the trade between India, Caubul, and Bokhara is conducted by the Lohanees, a pastoral tribe of Affghans, often of considerable wealth. About 1,000 camel-loads of Indian goods are annually consumed in Caubul. The Caubul merchants have latterly begun to frequent the annual fairs on the borders of the Russian dominions, and most of the Russian trade with Bokhara has fallen into their hands. Sir A. Burnes remarks, that were such fairs to be established on our NW. frontier, and encouragement given to the Lohanee merchants, who are every way deserving of it, a large export of British manufactures would take place.

Roads.—In an inland country, without navigable rivers, and not suited to wheeled carriages, traffic must be carried on by means of beasts of burden; camels are the principal of these in Caubul, and constitute great part of the wealth of many individuals, as they are let out to merchants by those who cannot afford to trade themselves. The merchants commonly travel in bodies, called *caravans*, and place themselves generally under the conduct of some chief whom they elect as a *camfla bawshee*, or an officer with absolute command over all the arrangements of the journey. There are but two great routes through the country; one from Balkh across the mountains at Baumeen, through Caubul to Peshawur, and thence into the Punjab; and the other from Herat to Candahar: on this line there are few obstacles to oppose a European army, and the latter city could furnish abundant supplies. From Candahar there are two routes; the former through Ghiznee to Caubul, not difficult for nine months in the year, but next to impassable in the winter, from the snow and intense cold; the second through the valley of Pishoon and Quetta to Shikarpore in Sind; a country furnishing supplies of food, but deficient in wood and water. There is another road across the Solimaun range from Candahar to Dera Ghazee Khan, in Damaun; but it is said to be hardly practicable for a European army, and is not travelled by merchants. The Khyber Pass from Peshawur to Caubul has, in consequence of enormous exactions on merchandise at the former place, been deserted by traders, and is unsafe. Camels, horses, mules, &c., are cheap enough throughout Caubul; but fuel is very scarce and dear, and water is not generally to be had in abundance: two great drawbacks in travelling. (Conolly, ii. 323.)

The Public Revenue, in settled times, amounts, according to Mr. Elphinstone, to nearly 3,000,000*l.*; but, before the revolution which dethroned Shah Shoojah, 1-3rd part was remitted to different tributary princes, who consented to hold their dominions as grants from the khan of Caubul: of the rest, half was assigned for military services to the chiefs, and the remainder for the maintenance of moollahs and dervises. The chief sources of