

t; and the site of V., as well as the rich oases in the Seistan, Gurm-defined boundary, stable country. distance, the E. is no river which rise for the greater of the minor rivers h-Rood and Lora. is that of Seistan, receives the waters

elevation; the tem- sawn and Candla-; but, generally, the year does not that of England. ground for five thermometer stood the hottest period. The prevailing water. The rains are much diminish- they reach the N.E. rainy season is weather, and occa- the influence of e least degree: in season; but showers year, as in Eng- at week in March, blossom, and by the foliage: from July; the winter lasts. Caubul generally diseases are fevers, A. Humes found at 10,000 ft. above so common in the

are of granite, and are the prominent: the slate forma- clay-slate, chlorite, gneiss generally the Sollmaun chain he; its accompany- ally hard red stone, the hills between partly of a mixed ed with ore, and n, lead, copper, and or 12 lead mines are worked; gold is at come from the ensive deposits of e.; coal, naphtha, the latter district; y, both in springs ured from the soil

most of the finer the timber in the ty of pine, oak, olive: the Hindoo in many places of produce the birch, id vine, berry, hes bearing edible ith extensive or- trees; the other are the mulberry, oplar. The assa- at an elevation of

7,000 ft.: hemlock, fennel, peppermint, nettles, and other such plants common in Europe, are equally common in the higher parts of Caubul, with a profusion of roses, poppies, hyacinths, and jessamines. The vegetation of the lowlands approximates more to that of India; and, on descending into them, the contrast with the country just passed is so striking that it is thus adverted to by the Emperor Baber in his commentaries:—'I saw another world. The grass, the birds, the trees, the animals, and the tribes of men: all was new! I was astonished.'

Lions of a small species are said to have been found in the hilly country about Caubul; tigers are met with in most of the wooded tracts; wolves, hyenas, jackals, wild dogs, the elk, and various other kinds of deer, wild sheep, and goats, on the E. hills; the wild ass in the desert; foxes, hares, porcupines, ichneumons, and ferrets are also found. Birds are very numerous, and include several kinds of eagles, hawks, and other birds of prey; herons, cranes, wild fowl, and game, in plenty; doves, magpies, thrushes, and nightingales; parrots and birds of rich plumage are found only in the E. Turtles and tortoises are numerous; there are no crocodiles in the rivers; the snakes are mostly harmless. Large scorpions infest Peshawar; mosquitoes, except in Seistan, are less troublesome than in India; large flights of locusts are rare, but occasionally cause a famine in Khorassan.

*Races of Men.*—The Afghans, who call themselves Pootoon, bear a considerable resemblance to the Jews; and, though they consider it a reproach to be called Jews, they claim descent from a son of Saul. Sir W. Jones and Sir A. Humes contend for their Jewish origin; Mr. Elphinstone discredits it. They are divided into a number of tribes, often at war with each other, especially those in the E. of Caubul, and each under the authority of a chief, who, however, is usually assisted by a council (*jeerga*), consisting of the heads of the tribe. Mr. Elphinstone conceives their political condition to bear a strong analogy to that of the Scottish clans, in former times; but the genius of the Afghans is more decidedly republican; they resist every encroachment of their rulers, and have a boldness and elevation of character unknown to most other Asiatic nations. They are Mohammedans of the Soonite sect, but use the Persian alphabet: their literature bears a similarity to that of the Persians; but it has a superior dignity and refinement, and in many respects is not unlike that of Europe. The Afghans are hospitable, and tolerant in religion; but extremely superstitious and addicted to astrology, divination and alchemy. They are plunderers by profession; in the W. they live in tents, in the E. in fixed habitations; only a few of them reside in the large towns. Their chief amusements are the chase, feasting, songs and recitations: they have slaves, but traffic very little in them. (See AFFGHANISTAN.)

The Eimaucks and Hazaurehs, two races of Tartar origin, although using dialects of the Persian tongue, inhabit the Paropamisian mountains. The Eimaucks, who are divided into four principal tribes, subdivided into numerous clans, each governed by its chief, occupy the lower parts of the country, between Caubul city and Herat; Mr. Elphinstone estimated their number at about 450,000. In war they are ferocious and cruel: they retain many Mogul customs, mixed with others of Persian origin; they live almost entirely in camps, and use the same kind of food as the Afghans, with the addition of horse-flesh and bread of an oily kind of nut. They cultivate wheat, barley, and millet;

keep many sheep, and rear a small but active breed of horses: they are Mohammedans of the Soonite sect. The Hazaurehs have been estimated at about 350,000; they inhabit a higher region than the Eimaucks, a cold and sterile country, where little corn can be grown: their sheep, oxen, horses, and the produce of the chase, furnish them with their principal articles of food; sugar and salt are the foreign commodities most in demand amongst them. They live in villages of thatched houses, and are divided into different clans, constantly at war with each other, and each governed by an absolute chief. The Hazaurehs have strong Tartar features, and many similarities in customs and dress with the Uzbeks; the women, who are frequently good-looking, possess an unexampled license and ascendancy over their husbands. These people are passionate, tickle, and capricious; but conversable, hospitable, and very fond of music, recitation, visiting, and other sociable kinds of amusement. Many of them are performers on a guitar, poets, and improvisatori. They belong to the sect of Ali. The Tadjiks, or Tanjiks (see BOKHARA), are probably descendants of the original Persian inhab. of the country, and of the Arabs who conquered it in the first century after the Hegira. They live mostly in and round the larger towns, and everywhere reside in fixed habitations, having settled employments. They are zealous Soonies, mild, sober, peaceable, and industrious; and assimilate much more with the Afghans than their brethren of Bokhara do with the Uzbeks. The Tadjiks are most numerous towards the W. of Caubul; as the Hindkoos (Hindoo, Juts, Sindians) are towards the E. The Hindooos are, however, to be met with all over the country, chiefly as money-changers and tradesmen; they are mostly of the Kshatriya or military caste. The Kuzzilbashes, or Persian Toorks, inhabit the towns; the Helotches are generally almost confined to the S.; there are about 2,000 Arab families, besides Armenians, Alyasinians, European Turks, Jews, and Cantirs amongst the population.

*Agriculture.*—There are five classes of cultivators—1st, proprietors, who cultivate their own land; 2nd, tenants, who pay a fixed rent in money, or a proportion of the produce; 3rd, *bugzurs*, or metayers; 4th, hired labourers; 5th, *villains*, who cultivate their lords' lands without wages. The lands are more equally divided in Caubul than in most countries, and the first class, or that of small proprietors, is very large, as by the Mohammedan law every man's estate is at his death divided equally amongst his sons. The class of tenants is not numerous. Leases are generally from 1 to 5 years, and the rent varies from 1-10th part to half the produce; the landlord generally providing the seed, cattle, and farm implements. Labourers are principally employed by the *bugzurs*; they are fed and clothed by their employers, and paid for 9 months' work about 30 rupees. The *villains* are many of them of foreign descent, and always attached to the service of some master; they are subject to taxation, and even death-punishment from their lord, but have the privilege of removing from the service of one master to another: they are most numerous amongst the Ensofzyes and other Afghan tribes in the NE. There are two harvests in the year; one crop, consisting of rice, millet, *jowaree*, and maize, is sown in the spring, and reaped in autumn; the other, which consists of wheat, barley, and legumes, is sown at the end of autumn, and reaped in summer. Rice is grown in most parts of the country, but wheat is the common food of the people: barley is usually given to horses. The vegetables and pot-herbs of Europe and India are cultivated largely, especially turnips