

## J. P. Ferrier. Caravan journeys and wanderings in Persia, Afghanistan, Turkistan, and Beluchistan. 1844-45. (Published 1857)

<http://archive.org/details/caravanjourneysw00ferrich>

*French petty officer. Ferry works as instructor of the Persian army during four year. Fluent in Farsi. He explores Afghanistan, in particular around Herat and Kandahar, as well as the Sistan province in Persia. His level of education is no match to O'Donovan's, his stories by hearsay lack the acute challenge of O'Donovan's scientific mind, but he is a good observer. He is strongly critical of the Persian corruption and of the Shah's lack of leadership. He knows well and often quotes Mouraviev's book.*

Page 88:

Yomuds: 25 000 families which occupy a territory between the Gurgien an Atterrek mouth to the eastern shore of the Caspian and from there up to Khiva.

Göklans: 12 000 families on the banks of the lower Atterek and Gurgien (Up river from the Yomud).

Tekes: 35 000 families, from the right bank of the middle Atterek all the way to Sarakhs on the lower Tejen / Heri-rood

*(Note: These are the Akhal Tekes, who actually are more concentrated in the Northern piedmont of the Kopet Dagh range, where «27 rivers » create a continuous string of small oases. A branch of them is concentrated around Sharaks on the Tejen River and in the Tejen «delta ». This second branch of Tekes is the one which, a few years later, will be driven out of Sharacks by the Persians, will then attack the Saryks and Salors of Merv and take over the oasis. The Saryk and some Salors will then move up the Murgab river, while a larger group of Salors migrates to an empty Sarakhs, some other groups move back to the middle Amu darya (where Burnes already met some in 1830) and a few hundred families, accept the rule of the Tekes and stay in Merv).*

Page 91: Severe judgment by the author of the lack of religiousness of the Turkmen, Sunni in words but little and poorly practicing the Koran.

Page 95-98: About horses: Ferrier praises the outstanding resistance of Turkmen horses and their hard, competent training. «...A Turkmen horse never sees a stable, he is always picketed in the open air and well clothed with felt rugs...».

Page 124-125: At Meshed: Ferrier mentions the same articles of trade than O'Donovan.

He praises the beautiful rugs manufactured in the province «perhaps unequalled for color, wear and beauty in the world». Not the smallest allusion to Turkmen rugs, though.

Shortly after Ferrier's stay, Meshed is much impoverished by violent political troubles.

*(Note: 40 years later, both O'Donovan and Steward mention that the Turkmen carpets are superior and much more beautiful «than anything made in Persia», which seems to confirm the quick decadence of Meshed.)*

Page 139: The plains along the Heri rood / Tejen, after its bent towards the North, are fertile, but remain unused by the Persians, due to the raids of Turkmen and Hazarah

*(Note: One of the 4 main Aymak tribes, the Hazarah are ethnically mixed and believed to have some Mongol ancestry)*

*(Note: In 1881, Steward also mentions raids of Baluch northern tribes, deep into Khorassan, mounted on racing camels. Contrary to the Turkmen, the undiscussed market leaders in the man-hunting business, who normally kill their prisoners whenever they can't deliver them to slave markets, the Baluchi rarely kill. They specialize instead in stripping their victims down to the minimum of clothes required by Muslim decency, before letting them go.)*

*Ferrier, on his route to Herat passes notably south of the dangerous area.*

Page 141: The banks of the upper Tejen / Heri rood are «admirably wooded, with trees of large growth.

*(Note: One could suppose that the Teke saw tall trees and illustrated them on their rugs during their short stay around Sarakhs, probably not later, when they settled North, around Merv where the only «tree» is the tamarisk bush.)*

Page 204: About the many little khanates (mostly Uzbek ones) on the piedmont in Northern Afghanistan:

«...The amount of rivalry and intrigue that exists amongst the petty Khans of Turkistan is perfectly incredible to any one who has not been in the country and, instead of trying to decrease or modify either, they exert their intelligence to the utmost to complicate and carry out their paltry schemes... »

« ..The certain consequence is a permanent state of warfare, in which it is impossible for the people to attempt the development of the resources of the country, or undertake any enterprise with a view to its future improvement... »

« ...The people of these little Khanates are ever thus the sufferers from the barbarous and ignorant ambition of their chiefs, who are the most absolute sovereigns in the world.....They recognize the suzerainty of the princes of Herat, Bokhara, or Khulm, only because they have not sufficient power to throw it off; or, that occasionally it happens to be to their interest to acknowledge it. They will change their protectors as often as it suits them.... »

Page: 204: At Andkoy, Afghanistan: 3/4 of the population is Afshar ([Turkik tribe of Oghuz Turkmen origin](#)) established there by Shah Abbas the Great and 1/4 are Uzbek. In 1844 an Afshar chief is in power.  
Page 207: At Balkh: Belongs to the king of Bokhara. 15 000 souls 2/3 Afghans 1/3 Uzbeks.  
Page 211: At Khulm on an affluent of the Amu darya about 70 000 souls, mostly Tadjiks  
Page 223: A village in the hills over the Balkh River making beautiful carpets. The weavers are Persian speaking, thus probably Tadjiks.  
*(Note: An example of competent weavers who are not Turkmen. See Dudin's dubious theory)*