

114 D 1  
THE  
COMPLEAT HISTORY  
114 D 1  
OF  
THAMAS KOULI KAN,  
(At present called SCHAH NADIR)  
Sovereign of PERSIA.  
In Two Parts.

PART I. Containing a Description of the *Persian* Empire; an Account of the Religion and Manners of the *Persians*; a Chronological Abridgment of their History, including the Lives and Reigns of *Cyrus* and his Descendents, the *Arfaeidae*, the *Caliphs*, the *Tartar* Princes, and the *Sophis*, down to the late Revolutions; a particular Account of the *Aghwans*, and their Leaders *Mir-Weis*, *Magmund*, and *Efchref*, to their total Reduction by *Kouli Kan*; the Origin and Rise of this Commander, his Wars with the Rebels and the *Turks*, and his artful Assumption of the Crown.

PART II. Containing a Description of the Empire of *Indostan*, and a Character of the *Indians*; some Account of all the *Great Moguls* from *Tamerlane* down to *Mahmet-Gha* now reigning; Grounds of *Kouli Kan's* Quarrel with this Latter; his Invasion of the Kingdom of *Cabul*, and the whole Progress of his Arms till he entirely defeats, deposes, and generously restores his Enemy, after having taken from him an Immense Booty, obtained the Cession of Part of his Dominions, and obliged him to an Annual Tribute. With Copies of Letters, Edicts, Manifestos, &c. translated from the Originals under the Hands of both Monarchs.

Written in *French*, and rendered into *English* with Improvements.

To which are Added,

An Appendix by the Translator, and an Alphabetical Index; a new Map of *Persia* and the bordering Countries, and a fine Head of *Kouli Kan*, engraved at *Paris* from an Original in the Possession of Prince *Cantemir* the *Russian* Ambassador.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. BRINDLEY, at the King's Arms in New-Bond-Street, Bookseller to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; S. BIRT, in St. Mary Lane; J. HODGES, on London-Bridge; J. ROBINSON in Ludgate-Street; and sold by most Booksellers both in Town and Country, MDCCXLII.



T H E

# Translator's ADVERTISEMENT.



HAVE given the Contents of this *Curious History* so fully in the Title, that it would be superfluous to repeat them here. Which Method I should not have chosen, were it not necessary to put This in fair Competition with another Performance lately Published (long since the first Part of this, and more than two Months since the second Part was advertised) entitled, *A Genuine History of Nadir-Cha*.

As I could not imaginè how more genuine Materials than what my Author had made Use of could be procured, it was with some Eagerness that I read over the *new Pamphlet*. Materials indeed it contains, but neither newer nor better than ours: The same Brick and Stone, without Cement, without Workmanship: An Appendix of Authorities, that wants only the Narrative before them.

I own the Editor, to make us some amends, has been very bountiful in his Introduction: Thanks to him for so much delectable Entertainment, which might be equally found in any

## ADVERTISEMENT.

any *Atlas* ! My Author too describes Countries and Cities ; gives an Idea of History from the earliest Times to those he writes of ; but does it in a Manner so much his own, that the Whole becomes entirely New. When he brings you to *Labor*, *Deli*, or *Agra*, then, and not before, he leads you all over the Place, and makes you as well acquainted with every public Building, as *Maitland* can make you with those in *London*.

IN a Word, if lively, gay Descriptions, pertinent, smart, and sometimes satirical Reflexions, happy Conjectures, with so much of the Authorities intermixed as may convince without tiring the Reader : If these are preferable to very jejune, imperfect Narrations, intermixed with unintelligible Strains of *Asiatic* Eloquence (pretty equal Portions of which two enter into the Composition of the *Genuine History*) I make no question but the ~~Work~~ now published will be preferred to a bare Collection of *some* of the Memoirs upon which it is founded.

## Jure Divino ; An Epigram.

SEE how *Ambition* variously succeeds,  
As different Councils prompt to equal Deeds !  
It brands with Infamy the rash Design  
Of Warbeck, Massaniell, and Cataline.  
It lifts to Monarchy the Private Man  
In Cæsar, Cromwell, and in KOULI-KAN.  
The same their Motives, not the Men's Address ;  
And *Right Divine* is but *Supreme Success*.

THE





THE  
French BOOKSELLER'S  
P R E F A C E.



*THE Author of this History has published another Work within a few Months past, which, no doubt, will run thro' several Editions. He captivates the Reader by his Stile, and by the lively, sensible, and now and then malicious Reflections with which he adorns his Stories. Moreover, the Subject of this present History of Thamas Kouli Kan, is the most likely to raise Curiosity: A Man, who from a mean unknown Birth, raised himself, in our own Days, to the Throne of Persia.*

*But this History does not only contain the Life of that Hero. " As the Kingdom  
" of Persia, (says our Author) the The-  
" atre on which such noble Atchievements  
" have been performed, is not universal-  
" ly known, I shall first give an Idea of  
" its Extent, Situation, Riches and  
" Strength; of its Inhabitants, their  
" Man-*



## P R E F A C E.

“ *Manners and Religion. I shall intro-*  
“ *duce next a Chronological Abstract of*  
“ *most of its Kings ; and relate, as con-*  
“ *cisely as possible, the chief Revolutions*  
“ *it has undergone, those in particular*  
“ *which have promoted this our great*  
“ *Warrior to the Throne of the Sophies.”*

Our Historian having acquitted himself of this Task, proceeds to the Life of Thamas Kouli Kan, and carries it on to the War, which he was constrained to declare against the Grand Mogul. His good Sense did not permit him to rely on Gazettes, and such frail Authorities ; he therefore defers giving a further Account of this Hero's Proceedings, till he is furnished with as good Memoirs as those on which he grounds himself in this first Part, which is concluded with a faithful Character of the Hero.

The true Name of this illustrious Man is Kuli Kan, (two Persian Words, explained hereafter) and this Historian does often write it so ; yet we have thought it incumbent upon us, to call him always Kouli Kan, both for Uniformity-sake, and because the Author has spelt it in the same Manner at the Beginning, and in many Places of his Manuscript. § . . .

T H E

A MAP  
of  
*PERSIA*,  
and the  
Bordering Countries:  
Suitable to the  
HISTORY of KOULI-KAN







THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
THAMAS KOULI KAN.



THE History I am about to write, will certainly raise the Curiosity of the Public: And the Reader will doubtless earnestly desire to be perfectly acquainted with a Warrior, whose Fame has reached the utmost Bounds of the World. But as the Kingdom of *Persia*, the Theatre on which such noble Atchievements have been performed, is not universally known, I shall first give an Idea of its Extent, Situation, Riches, and Strength; of its Inhabitants, their Manners and Religion. I shall introduce next a Chronological Abstract of most  
B of



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of its Kings; and relate, as concisely as possible, the chief Revolutions it has undergone, those in particular which have promoted this our great Warrior to the Throne of the Sophies.

Description of Persia

*Persia* is one of the largest Empires in the World: Its Length above six hundred common *French* Leagues, and almost equally broad. *Turkey* borders upon it Westward, *Tartary* on the North, the *Indies* on the East, and on the South the Eastern Ocean. The *Tigris*, the *Euphrates*, and the *Persian* Gulph part it from the Grand Signior's Dominions. Towards the Kingdom of *Astracan*, it reaches to the *Caspian* or *Hyrcanian-Sea*, known at this Time by the Name of *Mar di Sala*. The River *Oxus*, now called *Gihon*, is the Boundary of this great Kingdom, towards *Tartary*; and the River *Indus* is not at a great Distance from its Confines, on the Side of the *Mogul*. *Persia* is usually divided into twenty three Provinces. *Irak-Agemi*, *Chusistan*, *Loristan*, *Fars*, *Lar*, *Kirman*, *Sigistan* or *Drangiana*, *Zablustan*, *Manzanderan*, *Kilan*, *Tabristan*, *Adirbeizan*, *Albania*, called by some Writers *Alban*, *Schirwan*, *Moghostan*, *Chorazan*, *Candabar*, *Hazaray*, *Send*, *Daghestan*, *Georgia*, and *Armenia*. Besides the Islands of *Ormuz*, *Kesem*, *Lareck*, and some others of less Note.

Mountains in Persia.

The Highest is *Caucasus*.

Mountains of a prodigious Height are to be seen in *Persia*. *Mount Caucasus* is towards *Georgia*, near the River *Phasis*. The Top of it is always covered with Snow: It presents to the View chiefly Rocks and Stones; yet in some Places Travellers meet with agreeable and fruitful Plains, delightful Villages,

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Villages, watered by many Rivers, the Waters of which are very clear and sweet. At the Bottom of this Hill lies a charming Valley, six Leagues in Length. The River *Kur* runs thro' it, and the Inhabitants of the small Towns which adorn it, are blessed with Plenty of Wine: It contains the Ruins of some Castles, demolished, as they say, by the *Turks*. Eight or ten Leagues from thence is the Castle of *Akalzike*, which tho' in a Bottom, and surrounded by twenty Hills which command it, is looked upon as a strong Fort. It is the Residence of a *Bassa*, who is the Governor. Towards the End of the sixteenth Century, the *Georgians* who are under the Protection of *Persia*, took this Castle from the *Turks*.

Fort *Usker* lies at three or four Leagues Distance; it is built on the right Side of the River *Kur*, at the Top of a Rock, and contains a Garrison of four hundred Men, headed by a *Sangiack*. Four Leagues from *Fort-Usker*, is a Mountain which parts the *Turkish* and *Persian* Empires.

*Mount Taurus* rises in *Persia*, and reaches to the *Indies*. It is the longest in the whole World.

*Mount Taurus* is the longest

*Mount Ararat* is in *Armenia*, at a small Distance from the Town of *Eriuan*. The *Persians* call it *Agri*, the *Arabs*, *Subalaha*, and the *Armenians*, *Mesefonsar*. It is become famous for being, as is pretended, the Place where *Noah's Ark* rested after the Deluge. Some believe that the Remains of it are still to be seen there: And the *Armenians*, who are the most superstitious of the *Grecian Church*, never approach this Hill with-

*Mount Ararat* in *Armenia*.



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out making several Times the Sign of the Cross, and repeated Genuflections, or Bending the Knee.

There was heretofore, they say, a Road leading to the Top of this Hill, where the old Relicks of *Noah's Ark* might be seen: But an unlucky Earthquake having stopped up that Passage, it is become impossible to have an ocular Demonstration of the Truth of this Tradition; which renders it very much suspected of Forgery.

The Caspian-Sea.

The *Caspian-Sea* parts *Persia* from the Kingdom of *Astracan*, and has no Communication with any other Sea. It is rather a great Lake formed by several Rivers which run into it. Hitherto no one has thought proper to sail in it. The Czar *Peter the Great* had formed a Project to make it navigable: All the necessary Preparations for such an Undertaking were ready: But the Death of that Prince rendered the Design abortive.

Euphrates.

The River *Euphrates* is one of the greatest and most famous in the World. It takes its Rising from *Mount Ararat*. At first it shapes its Course from East to West: But near *Etzerum* it turns to the South, and parts *Natolia* from *Armenia*, *Syria* from *Di-arbeck*, and *Mesopotamia* from *Arabia*. Having in its Progress washed the Walls of several Cities, it discharges its Waters into the *Tigris* below *Seleucia*, very near *Ctesiphon*. *Pliny* and *Strabo* relate that it overflows its Banks as the *Nile* does.

Tigris.

The *Tigris* or *Tegil*, in *Hebrew* *Hiddekel*, has its Source in *Armenia*, near a Place called *Elegosin*. At first it bears the Name of



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of *Diglito*; but beginning to flow with that surprizing Rapidity peculiar to it above all other Rivers, it receives the Denomination of *Tigris*, which in the *Medes* Language signifies an Arrow. Having passed through the Lake of *Arethusa*, and parted *Syria* from *Mesopotamia*, it divides into two Branches, which form a large Island, and reuniting, take the Name of *Pasitigris*. Then it receives the *Euphrates*, and, by two Mouths, disembogues itself at last in the *Persian* Gulph. The Rapidity of its Course is such, that, as some Travellers say, it goes farther in one Day than a Horseman can do in seven. Others assure us that its Motion is so quick, that it dazzles the Eyes of the Beholders, and makes their Heads swim.

The *Indus* has its Source from *Caucasus*, *Indus*. gives its Name to that Part of the Continent called *India*, parts it from *Persia*, and discharges itself into the Sea of that Denomination. The Breadth of it is in some Places six *French* Leagues, in others ten.

The River *Oxus* rises in the Mountain called *Paraponisus*, and joining its Waters to the River *Ardack*, falls into the Lake *Pathack*. *Oxus*.

There are two Rivers in *Persia*, which bear the Name of *Araxes*: The largest and most celebrated jets out of *Mount Ararat*, runs thro' the Province of *Kilan*, and ends in the *Caspian-Sea*. *Araxes*.

*Persia* is not equally fruitful in all Places; Of *Persia* it contains some Defarts of a large Extent. in General. In the Province of *Manzanderan*, betwixt *Caspian* and *Ferhabad*, whole Plains, about ten Leagues long, and six or seven broad, are

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are covered with a white shining Salt of a good Flavour; but the *Persians* use it not, because they have better in the Mines amongst the Hills. That Road is very dangerous after Rain; for if one goes the least out of the high Road, one runs the Risk of falling into deep Pits filled with that Salt, moisten'd by the Water, from which it is very difficult to get out.

The Fruitfulness of

These barren Places are very advantageously counter-balanced by the Fruitfulness of others, which abound in Wheat, Rice, Melons, Pomegranates, Almonds, Dates, sweet-smelling and other Spices. Whole Woods are made up of Lemon, Orange, Cypress, and Palm-Trees. All tame and wild Fowl are in great Plenty. Their Cattle is very large, and of a delicious Taste. They have Camels, Dromedaries, and Elephants. Their Breed of Horses is not inferior to those of any other Country in the World, for Beauty, Swiftmess, and Strength. Some Provinces being destitute of Water, are by Consequence deprived of Fish. *Persia* has Gold and Silver Mines, and abounds with precious Stones. The Island of *Ormuz* supplies them with exquisitely fine Pearls: Marble and Jasper are not wanting.

Its Trade.

The prodigious Quantity of Silk produced in that Country, occasions an extensive Trade of Stuffs and Tapestry. Their Wine is very good, and of a delicate Flavour. The superstitious Devotion of the Natives, who think it unlawful to drink of it, is the only Cause of its Scarcity. However, it is easy to judge of the Revenue and formidable Power of that Kingdom: Their Commerce of

The King's Revenue.



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of Silk Stuffs alone bring in ten Millions of Crowns for the Duty on Exportation; and in general the King's Income amounts to about six hundred Millions of Crowns.

Several Princes are Vassals to this Monarch: Princes They take upon them the Name and Stile of *Sultans* or *Kans*. Some are hereditary; others hold their Dignity from the King's Bounty, and at his Pleasure; he may depose them when he thinks fit. He appoints Governors called *Daróga's*, or *Vizir's*, over the Towns and Provinces which are immediately dependent on him.

Having thus given some Account of *Persia* in general; we must now enter upon the particular Provinces which compose this great Empire.

The Province of *Irack-Agemi* has the Title of a Kingdom; they believe it to be the ancient *Persia*, and the Residence of the *Parthians*. The Provinces of *Adirbeizan*, *Chorazan*, *Fars*, *Chusistan*, *Kilan*, and *Tabristan* surround it. The *Persians*, out of Respect for, and as a peculiar Honour paid to this Province, are pleased sometimes to denote the whole Kingdom of *Persia* by the Name of *Irack*.—The capital City of this Province is *Ispahan*, the ordinary Place of Residence for their Kings: The most considerable Towns besides are *Caswin*, *Casbian*, *Sultania*, *Yezd*, and *Ferhabad the Lesser*.

*Ispahan* is situated in a Plain on the Banks of the River *Senderut*. Till the Reign of *Tamerlane* it bore the Name of *Sipahan*, which was then changed into *Ispahan*. Some pretend that it is the same as *Hecatompolis*, built by the *Greeks* under *Alexander the Great*,  
and



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and so called from its hundred Gates: Others are of Opinion it is the antient *Ecbatane*. Be that as it will, *Ispahan* is at present one of the greatest Cities in the East; the Circumference of it, including the Suburbs, is at least ten *French Leagues*. 'Tis divided into two different Quarters, the Inhabitants of which are always at Variance; and for Reasons of State this Division is underhand fomented by the Kings of *Persia*.

This capital City is but meanly fortified; a weak Wall, half thrown down, and a sorry Ditch are its only Defence. The River *Seranderut* supplies the Town with Water, and by the Contrivance of Pipes, waters the King's Gardens and those of the Nobility. Their Houses are mostly square, made of Brick, two, three, and sometimes four Stories high. The Windows are so high and broad that they look like Doors; they are not kept close with Panes of Glass, but with Sashes of oil'd Paper.

The Streets, a few excepted, are narrow, not laid out in a Line, nor paved, and by Consequence very ugly and nasty. The *Meidan*, or Great Place, is the finest in all *Persia*; it is seven hundred Paces long, and two hundred and fifty broad. The South-Side, in which is the King's Palace, is full of noble Shops belonging to Merchants. Over-against it is a most noble Alley or Range of Trees, regularly and artfully cut. In the Middle of this Walk stands a magnificent Fountain, the Waters of which over-flowing the Basen into which they fall, glide by different Channels, till they all meet in one Place, and there form a kind of Cistern.

The

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The whole *Meidan* is encompassed with Galleries to walk in, and be sheltered from the Rain: Under them Pipers and Kettle-drummers place themselves, to give Notice of the Rising and Setting of the Sun by the Sound of their Musical Instruments. They are likewise obliged to play, whenever the King comes out of, and back into his Palace.

This Palace is exceeding fine, raised very high, and the greatest Ornament of the *Meidan*. Before the Gates of it a hundred and ten Cannons are ready mounted upon their Carriages. The *Persians* brought this Ordnance from the Island of *Ormus*, when they recovered it from the *Portuguese* who had seized upon it. The King's Apartments are called *Deka*; the rest is the *Tabe-Chane*, or Great-Room, in which the *Persian* Monarch holds his Assemblies or Meetings with the Sultans or Kans of his Empire. From this Room one enters into the *Divan-Chane*, where the King's Council deliberates on State Affairs, and his Majesty gives Orders to the Ambassadors of crown'd Heads.

On one Side of this Room is that called *Haram-Chane*, where the King's Wives or Concubines meet to dance in his Presence, or to give him some other Diversion.

The Inclosure of this Palace contains several Gardens and Pleasure-Houses. One of them is named *Alla-capi*, the *Gate of God*. It is an Asylum for Bankrupts, and for those who involuntarily kill any one.

At the other End of the *Meidan*, is a particular Quarter, which enjoys several Privileges, ever since many Thousands of the Inhabitants

habitants retired thither, when *Tamerlane* punished that City for a Rebellion. The King's Treasure is deposited in a House placed behind the Palace-Court, and called *Taberick Kali*. The Walls of it are thick, very high, and guarded by a numerous Band of Soldiers. On the South Side of the *Meidan*, a magnificent Mosque was built by *Schah-Abbas the Great*, the first of the Name, and richly adorned by his Successor *Schah-Sepbi*. 'Tis consecrated to *Mehedi*, the last of the twelve *Imans* or *Saints*: He was buried near *Kusa*, and is to rise from the Dead, and mount the Horse of *Ali*, to carry the *Koran* to the four Points of the World, that all Mankind may be instructed in and embrace the Law of *Mahomet*.

A most  
curious  
Tower.

In a Corner of the *Meidan*, very near the King's Stables, a Tower has been erected, which is the most singular in the whole World. It is intirely made up of the Heads of Stags, Bucks, and Hinds, ranged and cemented with wonderful Art and Strength. King *Thamas* built it. This Prince reigned from 1525 to 1576, and they pretend, that he killed in one only Hunting Match, all the Beasts whose Heads are the Materials of this Tower.

The Trade of *Ispahan* is very considerable, consisting of Silks, rich Stuffs, Camels, Pearls, precious Stones, and other Commodities. The Markets are crowded with *Turks*, *Tartars*, *Georgians*, *Armenians*, and *Jews*. The *English*, *Dutch*, *French*, and *Italians*, drive there also a great Commerce.

This City is esteemed the most learned in the East: It contains thirty-two thousand Houses,



Houses, sixty-two Mosques, forty-eight publick Schools, and eighteen hundred *Carawan-feras* or Inns to receive Strangers ; besides sixty-three publick Bagnios, and twelve Burying-Grounds, or Church-yards. The Inhabitants are partly *Mahometans*, *Jews*, *Christians*, and *Pagans*, to the Number of about twelve hundred thousand Souls, as they pretend : But I am of Opinion, something must be abated ; for Towns in the East are not so well peopled as in *Europe*, their Women not being so fruitful. Be it as it will, there are four Suburbs in *Ispahan* ; the greatest is *Giulpha*, or *Ciolsa*, containing three thousand Houses and twelve Churches: All the Inhabitants of it are *Armenians*, and *Christians* of the *Greek* Communion. Most of them follow Trade, and are suffered to live quietly, upon paying a small Tribute to the King.

The second Suburb, named *Tabris-Abat*, because it is inhabited by People brought thither from *Tauris* by *Schah-Abas*, is situated on the other Side of the River *Senderut*. The third is *Hassen-Abat*, peopled with *Georgian* Christians. The fourth, called *Kebbrabat*, is full of *Pagans*, who pay divine Worship to Fire. The *French* give them the Appellation of *Guebres*, the *Italians* *Gauri*, the *Germans* *Kebbers*.

I have been pretty diffuse in the Description of this City, it being requisite, as I thought, upon Account of its Rank in the *Persian* Empire. I shall be more concise about the others.

The Town of *Caswin*, or *Casbin*, is at three Leagues Distance from Mount *Taurus*,  
tion of  
in *Caswin*.

in a delightful Plain. It is large, well-built, but without any Fortifications, and contains about one hundred thousand Souls. The Kings of *Persia* made it heretofore the Place of their Residence, and the Palace is still to be seen. *Abas*, surnamed *the Great*, removed the Court to *Ispahan*.

Descrip-  
tion of  
*Casbian*.

*Casbian* is much less than *Caswin*. The Situation of it favours Commerce, which accordingly is carried on there briskly. It lies on the Road from *Caswin* to *Tauris*, at the Foot of a Hill, in a large and beautiful Plain, not far from the *Caspian-Sea*; and all Nations come from the North and East to trade there. The best Manufactories of Silk Stuffs in all *Persia* are carried on in this Town. The King has a Palace in it, as in most of the great Towns of *Persia*. The *Meidan*, before the Palace, is very large, and in the Middle of it is the *Basar*, or the Market.

Of *Sultania*.

The Situation of *Sultania* is a spacious Plain surrounded with Meadows, which reach as far as Mount *Keider*. Formerly it was a considerable Town, but now it is small and half demolished. It is the cheapest Place to live in in all *Persia*; the Air is healthful, but Mornings and Evenings somewhat cold.

Of *Ferhabad*.

*Ferhabad* is a Town still of a lesser Note than *Sultania*.

Of *Yedz*.

*Yedz*, which is forty long Leagues distant from *Ispahan*, is likewise of no great Consideration, except for the Beauty of the Inhabitants; which occasions a common Proverb amongst the *Persians*, That to lead an agreeable Life, a Man should chuse his Wife from *Yedz*, his Bread from *Yezdecas*, and his Wine from *Schiras*.

Be-



Besides the fore mentioned Cities, in the Of *Com.* Province of *Irack-Agemi*, the Town of *Com* deserves our Notice. It is famous for being the Burying-Place of the Posterity of *Ali*, called by the *Persians* *Iman Zade*, the Children of Saints. Many stately Tombs, where in those of that Family are interred, adorn it; and it is famous for excellent Scimitar Blades, and all Sorts of Goldsmiths Ware.

The Province of *Chusistan*, is the same The Province of which the Antients called *Susiana*. It was a Kingdom, which after the Death of *Abradis* *Chusistan* fell to *Cyrus*. The Gulph of *Balsora* is on the South; the Province of *Fars* on the East; that of *Irack* on the West; and towards the North it borders on a Country called *Ayrack*. The capital Town is *Suza*, in a large Plain by the River *Zomaire*. *Strabo* informs us it was built by *Tithon*, Father of *Memnon*, and *Pliny* says it was repaired by *Darius*. *Alexander the Great* took it, and was married there to *Statira*. Notwithstanding the many Revolutions it has undergone, being sometimes intirely ruined, and then rebuilt, it still makes a considerable Figure amongst the greatest Cities in *Persia*.

The whole Province of *Curdistan* is not *Curdistan* subject to the *Persian* Monarch. The *Ottoman Porte* has seized upon Part of it, and the Remainder is governed by *Emirs* who are almost Sovereign Princes: For the Court of *Is-pahan* keeps very fair with them, for fear they should embrace the Grand Signior's Party. There are in this Province Christians of various Denominations, as *Nestorians*, *Jacobites*, and *Armenians*; *Manicheans* also, who adore God, and honour the Devil, for fear,



• fear, say they, he should be angry; and to  
 • hinder him from doing them Harm, they  
 • stand much in Awe of him: Likewise some  
 • *Guebres* of both Sorts, those who adore the  
 Sun, and those who adore Fire: All of them  
 are thought to be the true Posterity of the an-  
 tient *Persians*.

Reason  
 why the  
*Turks* are  
 not fond  
 of a War  
 there.

The *Turks* are not fond of making War in  
 the *Curdistan*, because that Country is full of  
 narrow Places and Hills, constantly guarded  
 by twenty thousand Men, who have settled  
 their Habitation in the Mountains, to stop  
 and oppose any Enemy who should venture  
 to pass.

The best Soldiers in the *Persian* Monarch's  
 Armies, are those whom he draws out of  
*Curdistan*; they are skilful, active, accus-  
 tomed to Labour and very stout. The chief  
 Town of this Province, and the strongest  
 Place which the King of *Persia* possesses in  
 the *Curdistan*, is *Hamadan*, on the Borders  
 of *Irack-Agemi*, and by consequence proves to  
 be the Key of the Kingdom on the North  
 and the East Sides.

*Loristan*.

Nothing can be said in Commendation of  
 the Province called *Loristan*.

*Fars*.

The Country of *Fars*, or the *Faristan*,  
 was famous heretofore, under the Denomi-  
 nation of *Persis* or *Persia*; and is still confi-  
 derable upon Account of its Fertility and  
 Commerce: It lies towards the *Persian*  
 Gulph. The chief Towns in it are *Schiras*,  
*Darabgierd*, and *Combrou*.

City of  
*Schiras*.

• *Schiras*, one of the largest Cities of *Persia*,  
 is built in a delightful Plain, thick set with  
 Woods of Palm and *Cyprus* Trees; The Ex-  
 tent of this charming Plain is twenty Leagues  
 from

from North to South, and as much from East to West. The River *Bendemir* runs thro' the Middle of it, and washes the Walls of *Schiras*, which they pretend is the antient *Persepolis*, and that its Ruins are still to be seen.

It is reported that *Mahomet* did not love to visit this Town, because he found there a Satisfaction of all his Senses too alluring. And, in reality, nothing can be more agreeable to the Sight, than the various Objects which this Country presents to the View of Travellers. The Smell is delighted by the Alleys of Orange-Trees with which their Gardens abound. The Taste is feasted by the juicy Flavour of the Meat, their wild and tame Fowl. Their Wines are excellent and much esteemed. As to the rest, which this pretended Lawgiver valued most; the Women of *Schiras* were very likely to give him all the Satisfaction he could desire. They are exceeding beautiful, much addicted to Gallantry, and dainty Morfels for a false Prophet. It is believed *Schiras* was the Place of Residence of the *Magi*, who travelled to *Judea* in order to pay their Homages to our Saviour. This Town contains about ten thousand Houses. There is a College in which the *Mahometan* Divinity, Philosophy, and Physick are taught. The Number of Students is computed at six hundred.

Reason why *Mahomet* loved not to come to it.

*Darabgi-erd* is a Town of less Note than *Schiras*; it has no particular Recommendation, except its Name, which shews that it was built by *Darius*.

*Darabgi-erd.*

*Combrou* is a fortified Town, with a safe Harbour. They also call it *Bender-Abas*, that

*Combrou.*



that is the Haven of *Abas*, because this Prince repaired it. The *Portugueze* had seized upon it, and maintained that Post till the Reign of *Schah Abas the Great*, who drove them out. The Town is large, very populous, and tolerably well built. 'Tis defended by a Castle, which protects also the Haven.

*Laristan.*

The Country of *Lar* is the sixth Province of *Parsia*, was heretofore a Kingdom governed by its own Monarch, till *Abas* the First conquered it in the Beginning of the seventeenth Century, after defeating the *Guebres*, and putting to the Sword their King and all his Family. This is a barren Country; the Ground so sandy, that nothing can be sown in it; the Heat excessive, and, to complete their Misery, they have no Water, except in some Cisterns dug by the Inhabitants, which are filled by the Rain: But the violent Heat soon turns it to Filth and Stink. The chief Towns are *Lar* and *Passagarda*.

*Lar.*

The Town of *Lar* gives its Name to the Province, and is an agreeable Place: Every House has a Turret, much higher than our Chimney Stacks, hollow within, and open at the Top, to give a Passage to the Wind, that it may fan and refresh the House, which is very useful in those hot Climates; besides the fine Prospect it affords. Here stands its only Defence, an ill-fortified Castle, in which are many Cannons brought from *Ormus*.

*Passagarda.*

*Passagarda*, or *Passa*, is the head Town of a small Country, which is part of, and enclosed within the Limits of the *Laristan*.  
The



The great *Cyrus* is buried here, if Credit is to be given to *Pliny* and *Quintus Curtius*. This little District is full of *Cypres-trees*, one of which is very remarkable, both on account of its prodigious Height, and by reason of its Circumference, which is equally amazing, since five Men of the tallest Size cannot enclose its Body with their Arms extended at full Length. A red Gum, taken for Blood by the Unlearned, distils from this Tree, which is highly respected by the *Persians*. They call it *Pir*, which in their Language, signifies *old*. The *Arabians* give it the Name of *Seich*.

The Province of *Kirman* is very large, *Kirman*. borders on one Side upon *Faristan*, and on the other, upon *Zablustan* and the *Indian-Sea*. The chief Town is also called *Kirman*.

The Province of *Zablustan* lies South of *Zablustan*. the Kingdom of *Chorasan*, and North of *Kirman*. The chief Towns are *Zarans*, *Bust*, and *Nebesact*, besides a Fort which is esteemed the strongest in all *Persia*.

*Sigistan* or *Drangiana* is neither much *Sigistan*. known, nor worth much Notice. There are but two tolerable Towns in it, *Ariaspe* and *Praphtasia*.

The Kingdom of *Mazanderan*, is the *Mazanderan*. tenth Province of *Persia*, and of a great Extent. The Antients called it *Hircania*. It borders on the *Caspian-Sea*. The Air is unwholesome in this Country, by reason of the numerous hollow Places and Marshes; the Standing-waters of which breed in Winter an infinite Quantity of venomous Insects. These hollow Places and Marshes being dried

ed up by the Heat of Summer, the Insects burst, infect the Air, and cause Epidemical Distempers. Nevertheless this Country produces several Sorts of Fruits; not much Wheat, but, to make amends, much Rice, on which the Inhabitants live. The Women are very handsome and sociable, wear no Veils on their Faces, as all other *Mahometan* Women do; are extremely polite and gracious; and in general all the People of *Mazanderan* are very humane. Hospitality is no where so well known and practised. All Strangers are welcome without Distinction; lodged and entertained according to the best of their Power. Inns, we may conclude, are not necessary in a Country so hospitable; and, in effect, there are none; and in the whole Kingdom of *Mazanderan* it is impossible to find one Carawanserah. The most noted Towns are *Grand-Ferhabad*, *Escresf*, and *Saru*.

*Ferhabad.*

*Ferhabad* is without Dispute the largest City in *Persia*: It is built on a spacious Plain near the *Caspian-Sea*. *Schah-Abas the Great* laid the first Foundation of it, towards the End of the sixteenth Century; yet it is so wonderfully increased, that at this Time it contains forty Thousand Houses. The said Monarch gave it the Name of *Ferhabad*, made up of the two *Persian* Words, *Ferb*, that is Joy, and *Abad*, which signifies *Habitation*, *Dwelling*. The true Reason which prevailed on *Schah-Abas* to raise this City, was, because his Mother was a Native of *Mazanderan*; and in order to perpetuate the Memory of his Origin, he undertook to erect in this Province a Town which



“which should exceed in Bigness all others in the World. Politicians pretend that he was excited to it by Reasons of State, intending to make *Ferhabad* an impregnable Place of Arms, by its inaccessible Situation: For the only Ways of approaching to it are either the *Caspian-Sea*, hitherto thought unnavigable, or Mountains and narrow, dangerous, difficult Passes. So that a small Garrison may guard the Town; and some thousand Men placed in the Streights, put it out of all Danger of an Attack. This Conjecture is not ill grounded, considering the Number of Enemies with whom *Schah-Abas* was surrounded, and the many Wars he was obliged to maintain. This Monarch did also intend to build some other great Towns in *Mazanderan*: But knowing that the Number of Subjects strengthens a State, and being resolved to make this Province the most flourishing in his Empire; he gave an Invitation to Strangers of all Religions, granted them Privileges, freed Slaves, who settled there, and made them enjoy the Immunities of Freeman. No Country in the World is so well stocked with Mulberry-trees as *Mazanderan*, which accordingly breeds a prodigious Number of Silk-worms. The Circumference of *Ferhabad* equals, or even exceeds that of *Constantinople*; but the Houses of the former are low, and not above a Story high. The *Meidan* and *Basar* are very fine. As to the King's Palace, it is esteemed one of the most magnificent in the whole Kingdom.

*Schah Abas* is also the Founder of the *Escres* Town of *Escres*, distant six Leagues from *Ferhabad*, and one League from the Sea, in



a Plain furrounded with delightful Hills. *Ferhabad* is by much larger and more regular, but then the Neighbourhood of *Esfef* abounds in Wild-fowl and Fallow-deer, and the Court often visits it to take the Diversion of Hunting.

*Saru.* *Saru* is very large and populous. That Word in the *Persian* Tongue signifies yellow; and the prodigious Number of Lemons and Oranges, which grow hereabouts, are supposed to be the Occasion of the Town's bearing that Name.

*Kilan.* The Province of *Kilan*, one of the most considerable in *Persia*, is furrounded by Mountains, from whence several Rivers flow, water the Champain Country, and make it fruitful. Oil, Lemons, Oranges, and Tobacco, grow there in Abundance; but its principal Commodities, are Wine, Rice, and Silk.

*Scamachia.* *Scamachia*, the most remarkable City in this Country, stands in a Valley somewhat confined, which occasions it to extend much farther in Length than in Breadth. The Streets are strait and very long. There is a handsome Bazar, or Market, where all Sorts of Silk and Cotton Goods are sold. The *Russian* Merchants carry on a great Trade here with Pewter, Lead, and Copper, which they exchange for Silks and Perfumes.

*Amurath III.* took this City in 1578: But the *Persians* retook and burned it the same Year, after having won a great Victory over the *Turks*. It was rebuilt soon after, and destroy'd again by an Earthquake in 1667.

Being repaired in 1670, and put into good Condition, it began to recover the Losses it had

had sustained, when the rebellious *Tartars* of *Daghestan* surprised and plundered it, which ruined all the *Russian* Merchants, and gave the Czar *Peter the Great* a Pretence for marching against those People, and making an Inruption into *Persia*.

*Tabristan* is one of the smallest Provinces *Tabristan*. in *Persia*. Its Capital is *Afferabat*.

*Adirbeizan*, on the contrary, is one of *Adirbei-* the largest Provinces of this extensive Em-*zan*. pire, being the *Media* of the Antients. Its principal Cities are *Tauris*, *Erivan*, and *Ardebil*, or *Ardewil*.

*Tauris*, or, as the *Persians* pronounce it, *Tauris*. *Tabris*, one of the finest and richest Cities of *Persia*, is situated in a Plain, at the Foot of a Mountain, which is thought to be the Antient *Orontes*. It has neither Moat nor Ramparts, but only a sorry half-ruined Wall. The little River *Spingtcha*, which runs thro' this City, often does great Damages by its Inundations. There is another River besides at *Tauris*, called *Ali*, which washes the Walls on the North Side of the Town. Here are reckoned about 15,000 Houses, among which the Capuchins have a Convent, much more commodious than what they enjoy at *Ispahan*. They built it by Permission of *Mirza-Ibrali* the Governor. A Cannon Shot South of *Tauris*, are the Ruins of an old Castle, which the *Armenians* pretend was the Residence of *Cosroes*. A great many Houses here, which had run to ruin, were repaired about seventeen Years ago, when the Governor causing a Computation to be taken of the Inhabitants, Travellers assure us they amounted to 500,000.

*Tauris*



*Tauris* is famous in *Persia* for the beautiful Turbans that are made there, and for the best Shagreen Skins. The Winters are cold here, on account of the Situation, which is in the North of *Persia*, and near a high Mountain, whose Top is covered with Snow a great Part of the Year. But the Air, on return, is very healthful. This City has severely felt the Misfortunes of War. *Soliman* took it in 1514, and taking with him the richest of the Inhabitants, returned to *Constantinople*: But scarce was he arrived there before the People of *Tauris* rose against the Troops he had left among them, and put them to the Sword. The *Persian* Army which lay encamped in the Neighbourhood and had a good Intelligence with the Citizens coming in opportunely to their Support recovered them to the Obedience of the Kings of *Persia*, leaving *Soliman* no Possibility of being revenged on them. His Son *Soliman* II. sent an Army thither under *Ibrahim Bassa* his Vizir, who took it after a long and violent Attack; and in order to secure his Conquest, built a Citadel, which he mounted with 350 Pieces of Cannon. This however, did not awe the Inhabitants from revolting afresh, and massacring the whole *Turkish* Garrison, which consisted only of 1800 Men. *Ibrahim Bassa* marched once more against them, took the City by Assault, and severely chastised the Inhabitants, cruelly impaling a great Number of them, and leaving 10,000 *Fanissaries* to keep the rest in Subjection. Some Years after, under the Reign of *Amurath* III. these People rebelled again, and, with the Assistance of a few *Per*



*Persian* Troops, cut the Throats of the *Turkish* Soldiers. This Action irritating the Sultan, he sent hither a formidable Army in 1585, under *Osman-Bassa* his Grand Vizir, who retook the City, and abandoned it to Plunder. *Schah-Abas the Great*, in 1603, bravely recovered it from the *Turks*. It suffered much by an Earthquake in 1721: And in the last War between *Persia* and *Turkey*, it was alternately sacked by the Troops on both Sides.

*Eriuan* belongs rather to *Armenia* than to *Adirbeitzan*, tho' it is usually numbered among the Cities of the latter Province. The Plain it stands in is environed by a Circle of Mountains, and watered by *Sanguieya* and *Querck-Boulack*, two Rivers which issue from them. Upon the first of these is a Bridge of three Arches, in which there are pleasant Apartments, contrived for the Diversion of the Kan or Governor during the hot Weather. Just by *Eriuan*, stands a Citadel, which for the Number of its Inhabitants, and the Commerce there carried on, might rather pass for a Town. All the Shop-keepers are either *Armenians* or *Persians*, and the Governor is obliged to send Advice to the Court of *Ispahan* of all the Caravans that pass this way; and when any foreign Ambassador comes by, he must order an Escort with him to the next Place where there is a Governor. The great length of the Winter at *Eriuan* is perhaps the Cause of the Purity of its Air, which is very healthful. The Lands about it are full of Vineyards, which produce a Wine that is highly esteemed by good Judges.

The

Where  
Noah  
planted  
the Vine,  
according  
to the *Ar-*  
*menians*.

The *Armenians* have a Tradition, that *Noah* planted the first Vine in the Neighbourhood of *Eriuan*, and, if you believe them, they point out the very Spot at this Day. They also shew you an old Stem, which they pretend was this original Plant. Pity that *Noah* is not in the Number of modern Saints, that this dry Stump might have the Honour of working its Share of Miracles!

In 1582 the *Turks* became Masters of *Eriuan*, and built the Citadel above-mentioned, to keep the Inhabitants in Subjection. The *Persians* retook both from the *Turks* in 1604, and fortified the Citadel with several new Works, badly executed.

In 1615 the *Turks* attacked it again, *Schah Abas* being then King of *Persia*. After a Siege of four Months, the *Ottoman* Army, one third diminished, was obliged to retire without being able to gain an Inch upon the Besieged. But the *Turks* returning again after the Death of *Abas*, got once more Possession of *Eriuan*; which however *Schah Sephi*, Grandson of *Schah-Abas*, recovered in 1635. Since that, this City has never been besieged; only the Territory round suffered a little in the last War, sometimes from the *Turks*, and sometimes from the *Persians*.

The Fresh-  
water Sea.

Three Days Journey from *Eriuan* is a little Sea or Lake, thirty Leagues in Circumference, which bears the Name of the *Fresh-water Sea*. In the Midst of it is an Isle, where stands a Cloister, the Prior of which has the Title of Patriarch.

*Ardebil*.

*Ardebil* is a City moderately large, almost every House of which has a Garden planted with



with Fruit-trees, which forms at a Distance a beautiful Prospect, and makes it look like a City in the midst of a Forest. It was formerly the Burying-place of the *Persian* Kings, before they chose the City of *Com* for that Purpose. Several magnificent Monuments are yet to be seen at *Ardebil*, where some of those Monarchs lie interr'd.

The Province of *Schirwan* stretches along the Western Coasts of the *Caspian Sea*, between *Georgia* and the *Daghestan Tartars*. It is one of the most rich and fertile Countries of all *Persia*, but the Inhabitants have the Character of being a slothful People.

*Derbent*, the most considerable City of *Schirwan*, is so named from its long and narrow Figure. The *Turks* call it *Temir-Capi*, or the *Iron-Porte*. It stands upon the *Caspian-Sea*, at a small Distance from Mount *Caucasus*, by which all Travellers are obliged to pass in their Way between *Russia* and *Persia*. The Place they pass thro' is called the *Caspian-Porte*, or the Port of *Caucasus*. *Derbent*, as well as the Province it stands in, has been in the Hands of the *Russians* since the Year 1722.

*Albania* takes its Name from its Capital, *Albania*, antiently *Albana*, tho' more known at present by the Name of *Baku*. That, as well as *Derbent*, is situated on the *Caspian-Sea*; for which Reason it is that in many modern Maps, this Sea is denominated *The Sea of Baku*. There is a Fountain near *Baku* that runs with black Oil, which the *Persians* make use of to burn in their Lamps.

*Maghestan* extends towards the *Persian Maghestan Gulph*, and being in a hot Climate, the Inhabitants



habitants go almost naked. They are of a swarthy Complexion; notwithstanding which, their Women are none of the most ordinary.

*Mina.*

*Mina*, a double Fortrefs, is the most considerable Place in this Province. The larger Fortification incloses a great many Houses and Shops; and within it, in one Corner, stands the lesser, which is indeed very small, only a fort of Castle defended by a Garrison, and commanded by a *Beig*. These two Fortresses are strengthen'd with good Ramparts, and a Ditch fed with Water from a little River that runs just by.

*Chorasán.*

The Province or Kingdom of *Chorasán* is the antient *Bactriana*, the Seat of the *Parthians*. It lies on the Side of *Zagathai*, and touches on several Districts of *Great Tartary*. Among many considerable Cities that it contains, the chief are *Herat*, *Nisabur*, *Sarachas*, *Turschine*, and *Merverud*. *Schab-Abas* the Great was Governor of *Herat* before his Father's Death, when he was only Prince-Royal. One of the Sons of *Kouli-Kan* is at present invested with the same Office, which makes me think that this Place must be of great Importance.

*Candahar.*

The Kingdom of *Candahar* borders upon the Mogul's Dominions. The *Aghways* who make the greatest Part of its Inhabitants, are more slothful than the *Arabians* and not behind them in the Art of Thieving. They set upon the Caravans between *Inde* and *Persia*, and when they master them, not only rob the Merchants of their Effects, but massacre the Passengers, or sell them for Slaves to the *Tartars*.

*Can*

*Candahar*, the Capital of this Country, to which it communicates its Name, is a large City, and one of the best fortified in all the East. *Schah-Abas the Great* took it in 1622 from the Mogul Emperor, who afterwards retook it, and again lost it to the *Persian* Monarch, whose Successors have been in Possession of it ever since.

The Province of *Hazaray* is Part of the *Hazaray*. Kingdom of *Candahar*, but subject to a Governor of its own, who holds immediately of the Court of *Ispahan*.

The Country of *Zend*, bordering also on *Zend*. the Mogul, has the Title of Kingdom. It is governed by several Sultans, who are hereditary Princes, but Vassals of the King of *Persia*.

*Daghestan*, inhabited by *Tartars*, is a Province above 50 Leagues in Length. The *Caspian Sea* bounds it on the East, Mount *Caucasus* on the West, *Circassia* on the North, and *Schirwan* on the South. *Daghestan*

The *Tartars* of *Daghestan* are governed by Sultans, or particular Princes, who, tho' Vassals of the *Persian* Monarch, frequently laugh at his Orders, when they find them not agreeable to their Interests, or their Inclinations. These People are the greatest Thieves in the World; they prey indifferently on Friend and Enemy, and the *Persians* themselves are not secure from their Depredations. But the *Russians* lately made them pay somewhat dear for the Outrages they had committed in their Territory. The greatest Part of these *Tartars* dwell only in Tents, without any fix'd Habitation: Yet there are a few Towns and Villages in *Dag-*



*hestan*, and one City of about 1000 Houses, called *Tarku*, and built upon a Mountain environed with Rocks, from whence issue several Fountains.

*Georgia.*

*Georgia* is a vast extensive Country, bordering upon *Daghestan* and *Circassia* towards the North, upon *Turcomania* and *Adirbeitzan* towards the South, towards the East upon *Schirwan*, and towards the West upon the *Black Sea*. It is usually divided into two Parts, one under the Dominion of *Persia*, the other under the Dominion of the *Turks* and usually called *Mingrelia*. The *Persians* also distinguish their Part by the Name of *Gurgistan*: It is governed by two Princes who formerly had the Name of Kings, but have lost that fine Title since they became Vassals to the King of *Persia*. At present they are only called *Kans* or *Chans*, which signifies *Governors*. The *Georgians*, in general, are Christians: Their Nobility tyrannise cruelly over the Peasants, which occasions many of them daily to embrace *Mahometism*, to free themselves from the Drudgery they are otherwise exposed to. Numbers of Nobility here pretend they are born Princes, and the greatest Part of these turn *Mahometans*, in hopes of preserving their Title, and augmenting their Patrimony.

The Country is intersected with Mountains and Valleys, and produces all Sorts of Commodities. The Wine is excellent, and a great Trade is driven in it to *Persia* and *Armenia*. A Ton of the best may be bought in *Georgia* for eight Imperial Florins, or about six *French Crowns*. The *Georgians* are excellent Archers, and a great Part of the  
*Persians*

*Persian* Cavalry is composed of that Nation ; the Kings of *Persia* putting great Confidence in their Bravery and Fidelity ; neither the one nor the other of which they ever wanted, whether in the Armies of *Persia* or the Mogul : For when these two Powers are at War, they serve under both with equal Fidelity. What happens to the *Swiss* in *Europe*, often befalls the *Georgians* in *Asia* ; I mean, to fight against one another under two Powers at Variance.

The *Georgians* in general are hard Drink- Character ers, and notorious Thieves. As Children in of the other Countries are taught the Love of Vir- *Georgians*. tue, they are here instructed in the Art of Stealing. The Women are beautiful. Justice is administer'd by Christian Magistrates, and no other Money but that of *Persia* is current in all *Gurgistan*.

*Teflis*, called by the Natives *Cala*, is the *Teflis*. Capital of *Gurgistan*, or *Persian Georgia*. It stands upon a Mountain, by the Banks of the River *Kur*, or *Cyrus* ; is environed with strong Ramparts, and has a good Citadel, which the *Turks* built there in 1576. Here the Chief of the *Georgian* Princes has his Residence, as Head Governor of the Province. The free Profession of all Religions is tolerated in *Teflis*, and the *Georgians* have there divers Churches, the Metropolitan of which is *Sion*. That of *Aguescat* is remarkable for the pretended Image which *Jesus Christ* sent to *Agbarus*, who desired to see him ; according to the wretched Author of a pious Romance, who craftily invented this Fable, which the Monks now defend with more Warmth than good Sense. The *Mahometans*



*tans* have no Mosque in the City, but only one in the Citadel. Tho' they have often attempted to build one in the Town, the People have always effectually opposed it and there was once a Skirmish on this Account, in which a *Mahometan* Priest was knocked on the Head. As to the rest, the *Georgians* have a very little Christianity, mixed with much Superstition and false Devotion: They neglect the solid Morality of the Gospel, and are Bigots in mere Trifles: Images and Relicks they contend warmly for and rely much on Saints and the blessed Virgin, but little on *Jesus Christ*.

The *Armenians* have also several Churches at *Teflis*, the most considerable of which is called *Pacha-vane*, or the *Bassa's Cloister*, because it was built by a *Bassa* who embraced Christianity.

The other Cities of *Persian Georgia* are *Gory*, *Suram*, and *Aly*.

*Gory.*

*Gory* is situated in a Plain, between two Mountains, upon the Banks of the *Kura*. Near the River are two high Hills, upon the Top of one of which is a Citadel, built in 1670, by the Care of *Rustan Khan* who commanded the *Persian* Army during the War then carrying on in *Georgia*. The Situation of this Place is so advantageous that it is garisoned with only 200 Men, all native *Persians*. A Plan of it was brought into *Europe* by a Monk of *St. Austin*, who was upon the Spot at the Time it was finished.

*Armenia*, as well as *Georgia*, is divided between the Grand Signior and the King of *Persia*. That Part of it which is under the latter

latter is subdivided into four Provinces, called *Rivan*, *Kunge*, *Nachgivan*, and *Alingia*. The Christian Religion is here every where predominant, and the *Armenian* Priests say Mass in the *Greek* Tongue; as the few Catholics among them do in the *Latin*. The first of these have their Patriarchs, and the Pope sends an Archbishop to the latter; at which the Court of *Ispahan* artfully connives, as well knowing it has nothing to fear from the papal Power, whose Soldiers are none of the bravest, and whose Fund for War consists only in Indulgences.

The Isle of *Ormuz* is situated in the *Per-* The Isle  
*sian* Gulph, opposite the Mouth of the Ri- of *Ormuz*.  
ver *Drut*. It may be about 15 Leagues in Circumference, and is reckoned about an equal Distance from the Continent of *Per-*  
*sia*. The Heat is so excessive in this Isle, that Man and Beast often die of it. The Ground is dry and barren; Water scarce, and the little there is, salt. Here are Mountains of Salt frightful to look at, which sufficiently testify the Infertility of the Soil. Most of the Inhabitants have contrived subterraneous Caves, in which they keep large Vessels full of Sea Water for their Refreshment: And during the Dog-days, these poor Wretches stand a good Part of the Day in their Tuns, up to the Neck in Water, to avoid the Effects of the Heat.

There is one Thing particular in the Isle Wood and  
of *Ormuz*, which can be met with no where Stone of  
else. It is a Sort of Wood so ponderous, a singular  
that if you lay it on the Surface of the Wa- Quality.  
ter, it sinks with its own Weight, like Lead  
or Iron. On the contrary, there is a  
Kind



Kind of Pumice-Stone that will not dip under Water, though you throw it ever so hard but swims at top like a Piece of Cork.

Some pretend that *Mercury* established Colony in the Isle of *Ormus*, which at best can be only a probable Opinion. Thus much however is certain, that a *Mahometan* Prince reigned there in the sixteenth Century, and that the Island had then the Title of a Kingdom. This Prince, or petty King, built a City in 1507, which the *Portuguese* got Possession of soon after, under the Conduct of the Duke d' *Alberquerque*. They built a beautiful and strong Citadel near its Walls, in which they put a good Garrison, well supplied with Magazines, and a more numerous Artillery than was usually seen at that Time. This Fort was a long while taken for impregnable, which set the *Portuguese* upon embellishing the City of *Ormus*; and they succeeded in it to a Miracle. The Streets were all laid out by Line, and Palaces arose where Cottages were before. Crowds of Merchants came to settle there, and found their Account in it so well, that all the East rang with the Fame of their Riches. Some among them were worth more than two Millions, in ready Money and Effects.

The finest Edifice which the *Portuguese* built at *Ormus*, next to the Citadel, was the *Hospital of Mercy*, where the sick Poor were well looked after. Upon the Coming of these Guests, the King of *Ormus* turned Christian, and acknowledged himself a Vassal of the King of *Portugal*. Mean while, they suffered him to live upon his little Revenue without Molestation, and please himself with the

the Shadow of Royalty. His Subjects also were baptized, and the *Portuguese* assumed to themselves the Mastery in this small Island, upon the Strength of their supposed inexpugnable Castle.

*Schah-Abas the Great* had a different Opinion of this Fort, from which he was desirous of driving these *Portuguese*: But a maritime Force was wanting for that Purpose, of which the Kings of *Persia* were wholly destitute. The *English*, animated by a Jealousy which is common to Rivals in Trade, removed this Difficulty by offering to assist him with their Fleet, provided his Majesty would cede to them for ever after one Moiety of the Revenues arising from the Customs paid by Ships in the *Persian* Gulph. This Proposition accepted, *Ormus* was besieged by Sea and Land. The *Portuguese* in their Citadel defended themselves like Lions, and the Siege was long and bloody. The *Persian* Artillery reduced the City into a Heap of Rubbish, and the *English* threw so many Bombs into the Citadel, that at length it came to the Ground. On the 25th of *April* 1622, the *Portuguese* were obliged to surrender, their Fleet not having been able to bring them Succour. The Booty, consisting of twelve Millions of ready Money, and a World of rich Effects, was divided between the *English* and the *Persians*; but the latter had all the Artillery, no less than 305 Pieces of different Bores, most of them Brass. The Isles of *Kesem* and *Lareck*, which lie at a little Distance from *Ormus*, were also evacuated by the *Portuguese* who had there settled. In a Word, the *Persians* have always faithfully observed their Treaty with

with the *English*, and the *Indian* Company of *London*, which paid the Expence of the Armament, has received 40,000 *l.* Sterling for its Part of the Customs. During the late Troubles in *Persia* indeed, the Court of *Japahan* deliberated whether it should keep a disadvantageous a Treaty any longer; but having no naval Force, it did not think convenient to quarrel with the *English*, chusing rather to continue to divide with them the Customs of the *Persian* Gulph, than to expose any of their maritime Towns to a Bombardment, and their Commerce to Ruin.

Religion  
of the  
*Persians*.

There are several Religions in *Persia*, each of which I shall say a Word or two of. *Mahometism*, the prevailing one, is so well known, that it would be superfluous to enlarge on it: But as every one is not acquainted with the Subject of that mortal Hatred which subsists between the *Turks* and the *Persians*, who are otherwise of the same Faith, it will not be amiss to give a short Explanation of it.

Their Divisions  
with the  
*Turks*.

When *Mahomet* published his *Korane*, and, Sword in Hand, compelled *Manki* to receive it, he had with him one *Ali*, his Brother, by the Father's Side, and three other Arch-Deceivers, namely *Abubecker*, *Omar*, and *Osman*. After the Death of the false Prophet, these four Persons severally claimed to the Succession. *Ali*, though the youngest of the four, thought he had the strongest Right, because of his Relation to the Deceased; besides that *Mahomet*, upon his Death-bed, seemed to have pointed him out. However, the others supplanted him. Happy for *Ali*, they lived not long, so that



he was soon delivered from these troublesome Competitors: And the *Persians* afterwards so accustomed themselves to consider him as the next great Prophet after the Impostor *Mahomet*, that they are ever in Dispute, even to this Day, with the *Turks* upon this Subject.

The *Turks* cannot bear to hear *Ali* called the greatest Saint after *Mahomet*, because he did not succeed him immediately: They pretend that this Honour is due only to *Abubecker*, and after him to *Omar* and *Osman*; and as for *Ali*, they have always regarded him as the last of the Prophets of *Mahometism*. This is the whole Source of that Division and Rancour between the *Persians* and *Turks*: The former cannot hear the Names of *Abubecker*, *Omar*, and *Osman* without being in a Rage; and the latter never pronounce that of *Ali* but with Indignation, looking on him as a Usurper of the Glory of the other three.

If we consider the Matter well, we shall find Reflection. there is no Religion without such like Divisions. One may say that Mankind, ever the Dupes of the Avarice of their Priests, the Opinions of their Doctors, and the Politicks of their Sovereigns, though formed by Nature to live in Society, are always ready to murder one another; as if a different Manner of Thinking upon abstracted Subjects, had any Relation to Union of Heart in the Commerce of Life.

When the Kings of *Persia* are at War against the *Turks*, they never fail to signify to their Soldiers, that they are going to fight against the Enemies of the Name of *Ali*, and to promise them the Recompence due

Politicks  
of the  
Kings of  
*Persia*.

to Martyrdom. The *Mahometan* Priests the Sect of *Ali* perform their Business excellently well on these Occasions; and those the Sect of *Omar* are not behind-hand among the *Turks*. All their Labours on both Sides tend to promote a more plentiful Effusion of Blood; for both Sides are persuaded, that the more Enemies they butcher, the more acceptable they render themselves in the Eyes of God, and of *Mahomet* his pretended Prophet.

Reflection. Madmen, doubtless, as well *Turks* as *Persians*! But were the *French* less so, who abused by their Priests and Monks at the Time of the League, they let loose the Fury upon their Countrymen, and spilt even the Blood of their nearest Relations? And this for what? Because some of them chose to pray to the Almighty in *French*, and others in *Latin*. These Inconveniencies happen in all Religions, where Hypocrisy will still be confounded with real Virtue. The *Mahometans* have their Monks and Priests, who among them, as well as elsewhere, are a Parcel of lazy Fellows, that seek only their own Interest, without regard to the publick Welfare. Their whole Attention is to preserve the fat Revenues which they hold from Ignorance and Superstition, and he merits the Flames that lays his Fingers on these. But to imagine that they concern themselves much about Religion, is a palpable Error. The greatest Part of them have none; and why then should they trouble themselves about it? But this by the Way only.



I have remarked that the Primacy of *Ali* Other, was the Source of this mutual Hatred. But Sources of this must not be thought the only Subject of the *Persians* Enmity against the *Turks*. their Divisions, since there are others of no less Importance. For Example, the *Turks* hold that a true Believer ought to wear a round Turban, and the *Persians* maintain it should be piked. The *Turks* will have Green to be the holy Colour, and no Man amongst them is allowed to wear it but those of the Race of *Mahomet*; whereas the *Persians* wear this Colour in common. The first say that Wine is absolutely forbidden in the *Koran*, and the others insist that the Prohibition is not in clear and distinct Terms.

Would you not say, that you heard the Reflection Constitutionists sustain the Pope is infallible, and the *Jansenists* assert he is not? Those, that Grace is not efficacious without the Control of the Will; These, that it is so of itself, or that it operates its Effect without such Assistance? Seems it not like the *Cordeliers* employing all their Subtlety to prove that the Virgin *Mary* was born without Sin, and the *Thomists* as strenuously maintaining the contrary? The Differences between the Protestants and the *Roman Catholics* are a little more considerable: But what Man of Sense will dare say they are sufficient to have authorised such an Action as the bloody Day of *St. Bartholomew*, much less all the Evils that have followed the Revocation of the Edict of *Nantes*?

*Tantum Relligio potuit suadere malorum.\**

\* *Lucret. Lib. iii.*

E

There

Senti-  
ments of  
the *Sciates*  
upon Mar-  
riage, and  
with what  
Eye they  
look on  
the fair  
Sex.

The *Per-  
sians* lay  
no Re-  
straint on  
Con-  
science.

There are an infinite Number of other little Sects, besides the two great ones of *Ali* and *Osman*, which divide the *Mahometan* Religion. The Leaders of them dispute about Words, like our Scholiasts. I will not undertake to speak of all these Sects in particular, which would fill a Volume much larger than I am inclined to make this: But I cannot help observing, that the most diverting of them all is that of the *Sciates*. They differ from your strict *Mahometans* in believing that all Children are legitimate, and treat Marriage as a Chimera. They take a Woman they like, keep her as long as they please, and turn her off with a little Sum of Money. If any one afterwards fancies this Woman, he is welcome to take her; no body will hinder him. The *Sciates* are none of your gallant Lovers; they look upon Women as Beasts of Burthen, which a Man may use when he has Occasion,† and send them packing as soon as he has done. To talk of Constancy, Fidelity, Conjugal Love to a *Sciata*, is talking a Language he laughs at, and does not understand!

The *Persians*, throughout their Empire, permit the free Profession of every Sect of Christianity: More reasonable in this, and more humane than some Christians themselves,

† Pardon me, ye Fair, if I am obliged to report the Sentiments of these Barbarians concerning your Sex. I can assure you, it shall not in the least diminish my Respect and Admiration for your amiable Qualities. Peste on those *Mahometans* who deny you the Justice you deserve! Doubtless the most extravagant Tenet of their Religion, is that which excludes you from Paradise.

who



who cannot suffer any other than their own.

There are at this Day in *Persia* a great many *Indians* and *Gaurs*, immersed in the Darkness of Idolatry. The first indeed believe there is but one God, who created Heaven and Earth : But they say that he afterwards made other Gods to preside over Affairs, being of himself alone insufficient to bear the Fatigues which every Day arise in the Government of the Heavens and the Earth. The chief of these Viceroy Gods are *Crason* and *Rama*, in the latter of whom they so much confide, that when they salute in the Street, instead of saying Good-morrow, or any thing like it, they only cry out *Rama, Rama!* All that is known concerning the Origin of these subaltern Gods, is, that they were Kings of these People, who reigned in Virtue and Justice, which prompted their ignorant Subjects to deify them, and regard them as their Patrons.

The Priests of these *Indians* are called *Brach-* Their  
*mans*, who all believe the *Metempsychosis*, and Priests be-  
therefore cannot bear to see any Animal de- lieve the  
prived of Life, lest perhaps the Soul of some *Metempsy-*  
one of their Relations may reside in its Body. *chosis.*  
The young Beggars in *Persia* will go to these *Indians*, one with a Bird, another with a Mouse in his Hand, which they pretend to kill. Immediately the poor Idolater begs them to desist, and redeems the little Creature perhaps at an extravagant Price.

As I have spoken already of the *Guebrs* or *Gaurs*, I shall say nothing of them here. The Re-

There is not a Sovereign in the World more absolute, or more respected by his Sub- jects shewn to a  
King of  
*Persia.*

jects than a King of *Persia*. It is Death for a Man to meet even one of his Concubines, as she passes along.

Character  
of the *Per-*  
*sians*.

The *Persians* have always passed for the most knowing, and the most judicious of all the *Oriental*s; they want neither Wit nor Vivacity.

A witty  
Saying of  
one of  
their great  
Lords.

A Saying of a great *Persian* Lord, reported by a certain Traveller, would not be disowned by the most sprightly *Gascon*. The Reader must know, that there is an Ass kept at the Court of *Persia* with much Respect, which on certain Days of *Gala* is brought into the royal Apartments, richly caparisoned, and there fed out of a golden Trough. This Ceremony was once performed before a *Spanish* Ambassador, who, extremely scandalized, and turning to a *Persian* Lord that was near him; *I am surprised,* says he, *That you make so much here of an Animal which we look upon in Spain as the vilest of his Kind.* The Reason of this Difference, replied the *Persian*, is not difficult to find: It is only because there are more Asses in Spain than in *Persia*.

Having spoken of the present State of the Kingdom of *Persia*, and of the Religion and Manners of its Inhabitants, I must say something of its Origin and Progress. The Subject is pretty extensive, but I will abridge it as much as possible.

Etymo-  
logy of the  
Name of  
*Persia*.

Writers are not agreed about the Etymology of the Name of *Persia*. Some derive it from *Perseus*, who delivered *Andromeda*, the Daughter of *Cepheus*, from the Monster to which she was exposed. This *Perseus*, say they, went into the Country we are treating of,



of, and gave it his own Name. Others affirm it was called *Persia* from a Governor of *Elymais*, whose Name was *Perses*. It would be too long to recount all the Opinions that have been started on this Subject, which upon the Whole is a Matter of no great Importance.

Progress of the Persian Monarchy.

*Persia* was originally a Province of the Kingdom of *Assyria*. The *Medes* took Possession of it next, which they kept above 300 Years, and lost it at last in the following Manner.

*Astyages*, who began to reign over the *Medes* in the Year of the World 3360, had an only Daughter named *Mandane*. Being much addicted to Divination, he consulted the Wise Men, or Astrologers of his Kingdom, concerning the Fate of this Princess. They told him, that the Son which should be born of her would dethrone him. Alarmed at this News, he deliberated whether he should take away the Life of his Daughter: But paternal Affection overcame the Thirst of Empire. He resolved, however, to marry this Princess to some Lord of his own Court, that he might more easily dispose of the Children she should bring into the World. *Cambyfes* was the Nobleman pitched upon for this Purpose. During the Nuptial Rejoicings, the old King dreamed he saw a Fire, which encreasing every Moment, reduced all *Asia* into Cinders. Terrified at this Dream, he conceived new Apprehensions, and placed Spies of both Sexes about the Princess, to inform him of all that befel her. In six Months Time she was found pregnant, when the Spies were ordered to double their Diligence. They soon brought him Intelligence, that the Princess was delivered of a Son: The

*Astyages* King of the *Medes*.

Birth of the *Cyrus*.

King thought the only Way to prevent the Effect of the Prediction, was to get rid of the new-born Infant. He delivered him to *Harpagus*, one of his Chief-Ministers, with an Injunction to get him removed into some remote Place, and have him put to Death in his Presence ; adding, that his own Head should answer for what he did. *Harpagus* executed his Master's Orders in all but one Point, which was cutting the Throat of the young Prince ; instead of which he left him in a Wood to the Mercy of wild Beasts. Here the Child continued two or three Days, without being seen ; and all that while, it is said, he was suckled by a Bitch. At length a Shepherd coming to the Place, perceived the Prince. Far from guessing at his Quality, but touch'd with Compassion, he carried him to his Wife, who had lately been delivered of a Boy, which died the next Day. She nourished him at her own Breast, gave him the Name of *Cyrus*, and educated him among the young Shepherds. These looked upon him as their Sovereign, on Account of his Beauty and Strength. He had such a Greatness of Soul, that he could not persuade himself he was a Shepherd's Son ; and when his Foster Parents told him how they had found him, he concluded himself descended from Parents of the highest Rank. He often repeated it to his Comrades, that he was born to be a King, and not a Shepherd. These Speeches came to the Ear of *Astyages*, who beginning to entertain some Doubt, sent for *Harpagus*, and asked him if he had destroyed the Princess *Mandane's* Child. The old Courtier, thinking it impossible that the Prince should have escaped the Teeth of the wil

He is  
brought  
up among  
Shepherds.



wild Beasts, frankly confessed that he had not the Heart to have him killed; but that he had left him in a Forest, where he must infallibly have perished. This Confession cost him dear: The wrathful King caused the Son of *Harpagus* to be cut in Pieces, and his Members served up to the Father at Table.

*Harpagus*, tho' sensible of the King's Barbarity, dissembled his Anxiety for the present: But getting together all the Money he could, he retired to *Cyrus*, related to him all the Mystery of his Birth, and how he had escaped being murdered; exaggerating his Grandfather's Cruelty, and inspiring him with Sentiments of Revenge. *Cyrus*, prompted as well by his Ambition as by the pathetic Discourse of *Harpagus*, got together some hundred Shepherds, by means of the Money which *Harpagus* had brought him. With this little Army he threw himself into *Persia*, which, weary of the *Median* Yoke, rose up in Arms against *Astyages*. He, being informed of these Circumstances, marched against the Rebels, his Army all glittering with Gold and Silver. That of *Cyrus*, in the mean Time, was poor, but composed of People inured to Labour, and whom he had himself instructed in military Exercises, for which he had a peculiar Genius.

Raises an  
Army, and  
declares  
War a-  
gainst  
*Astyages*.

The two Armies soon met, and came to Blows: It was in the Year of the World 1391, that *Cyrus* gained so complete a Victory, as to destroy or take Prisoners almost all the *Medes*. *Astyages*, his Grandfather, was among the latter: But the young Prince's Greatness of Soul, would not suffer him to stain the Glory of his Triumph by the King's Murder. He pardoned him, and even re-established him in the

the Government of *Media*, provided he should take only the Title of Regent; and reserved for himself the Kingdom of *Persia*. *Astyages* dying a few Years after, *Media* was re-united to *Persia*, and made with it but one Kingdom. *Cyrus* engaged in several Wars, which he finished with Honour. He overthrew the Empire of the *Babylonian*, and took their King *Balthasar* Prisoner; conquered *Armenia*; dethroned and took *Craesus* King of *Lydia*, famous for his Riches, which could now do him no Service. *Cyrus* is the same King which is mentioned in Scripture under that Name; and who, at the Taking of *Babylon*, restored the captive *Jews* to their Liberty.

His tragic  
End.

The End of this great Prince was as follows. Between the *Euxin* and *Caspian* Seas inhabited a *Scythian* Nation, called the *Massagetes*: They were governed by a Queen whose Name was *Tomyris*, who, besides a fine and artful Wit, was possessed of Courage beyond her Sex. *Cyrus* having a Quarrel with these People, marched against them with a powerful Army: But *Tomyris*, who knew herself too weak to risk a Battle with him, took Possession of all the Defiles thro' which he must pass to enter into her Country. Her Troops were disposed, that she could re-unite them upon the first Signal, to fall upon the *Persian* *Cyrus*, whether he had not prudently taken the Precaution to send out Parties, to reconnoitre the Situation of the Enemy, or whether these Parties failed in their Attempt, engaged the Queen among these Mountain Scarcely was the Rear of his Army come up

be



before the *Massagetes* appeared, attacked him on every Side, and cut his Troops to pieces. He lost his own Life in the Action; and it is said that *Tomyris*, having found his Body among the Dead, ordered his Head to be cut off, and dipped it herself in a Vessel full of human Blood, saying, *Satisfy thyself now with that Blood, after which thou hast always thirsted!*

*Cambyfes*, his Son by *Cassandane*, Daughter of Prince *Pharnaspes*, succeeded to the Crown. He made Addresses of Marriage to the Daughter of *Amasis* King of *Egypt*, of whose Beauty an *Egyptian* Physician, who had been at his Court, greatly boasted. The King of *Egypt* consented to this Alliance; but his Queen, who knew that Queens were not respected in *Persia*, but usually put upon a Level with the King's Concubines, substituted in the Room of her Daughter another Princess very deformed, whose Father, formerly King of *Egypt*, had been deposed by *Amasis*.

*Cambyfes* easily saw through the Imposture, and was extremely enraged at it. He sent back the *Egyptian* Princess, and declared War against *Amasis*, who died whilst he was preparing to withstand him. His Son and Successor finished the Preparations; but the War proved so fatal to him, that he lost his Army, his Liberty, and his Kingdom. *Cambyfes*, the cruel *Cambyfes*, massacred in one Day, and before the Face of this unhappy Prince, the whole Royal Family. It is said that *Psammenites* (which was the Name of this unfortunate Monarch) beheld these barbarous Executions without shedding a Tear:

*Cambyfes* succeeds him.

He makes War upon the *Egyptians*.



Tear: And when *Cambyfes* asked him the Reason, his Answer was, (a) *That his Misfortunes were greater than his Tears.* It was not Insensibility, but Greatness of Soul; first he afterwards poisoned himself, tho' *Cambyfes* had gave him his Life.

The Kingdom of *Egypt* became a Province to the Kings of *Persia*, and *Camby* longed to push on his Conquests farther. He made an Expedition into *Ethiopia*, in which he was not successful: For being ignorant that he must pass thro' a barren and desolate Tract of Land, he took but little Provision and thus ventured into a Country covered with burning Sands. Part of his Army perished there with Hunger and Thirst; so that he was obliged to return, and with much Difficulty recovered *Egypt*. He stopped at *Memphis*, the Capital, and gave there many Instances of his Cruelty. Having heard that one *Smerdis* had stirred up a Rebellion in *Persia*, he sent Orders to put to Death his own Brother, who bore the same Name. The Princess *Meroë* his Sister taking this Act of Cruelty to Heart, he cut off her Head with his own Sabre. Some Days after one of his Ministers, named *Prexaspes*, in whom he chiefly confided, endeavouring to dissuade him from a Habit of Drunkenness, to which he had given himself up, *Cambyfes* was affronted, and having ordered the Minister's Son, a very hopeful Youth, to be brought in, he commanded him to be tied to a Stake and let fly an Arrow into his Heart, which killed him on the Spot.

(a) *Domestica Mala Lachrymis esse majora*

The *Magi*, who were the chief Men in An Impof-  
the State, fought every where for that Ad- tor raised  
venturer, who called himfelf Prince *Smerdis*, to the *Per-*  
and who had for fome Time hid himfelf, to *fian*  
avoid the Rage of *Cambyfes*. They found Throne.  
at laft the Place of his Retreat; and having  
drawn him from thence, partly by Force,  
and partly with his Consent, they placed  
him upon the Throne of *Persia*. *Cambyfes*,  
informed of this Revolution, levied fresh  
Troops in *Egypt*, to march againft his rebel  
Subjects: But Death cut fhort his Expedi- The Death  
tion; for as he was going to fet out, his of *Camby-*  
Horse fell with him, and gave him fuch a *fes*.  
terrible Shock, that his Dagger flew 'out of  
the Scabbard, and, receiving him on the  
Point as he came to the Ground, paffed thro'  
his Body, upon which he instantly expired.

After his Death the falfe *Smerdis* faw him-  
felf in peaceable Poffeffion of the Kingdom  
of *Persia*; which however he did not long  
enjoy; for being in Bed one Night with one  
of his Concubines, fhe obferved he had no  
Ears, which Difcovery fhe communicated to  
a Confident, who fpread it among the Gran-  
dees. Thefe Noblemen, enraged at the  
having fuch a Master, confpired againft and  
affaffinated him. It was then known, that  
he had been a Scullion in the late King's  
Kitchen, and that having committed fome  
Theft, *Cambyfes* ordered his Ears to be cut  
off, and banifhed him his Empire. His  
Reign was fo fhort, that fome Hiftorians have  
not comprifed him in the Lift of *Persian* Mo-  
narchs.

The Ufurper being dead, and not one of The Elec-  
the Family of *Cyrus* remaining, the Grandees tion of a  
con<sup>d</sup> new King



*Darius*  
*Hystaspis*  
chosen.

concluded to elect a King from among themselves; but not agreeing about the Person, they referred it to the Decision of Chance. To that Purpose they ordained, that he whose Horse neighed first after Sun-rise, as they came into the Field of Election, should be acknowledged King of *Persia*. *Darius Hystaspis*, a Satrapa of the first Rank, carried it by an artful Contrivance of his Groom, which is foreign to our present Subject. The City of *Babylon* alone refused to obey the new King, which it was punished as it deserved.

*Darius* marched afterwards against the *Scythians* who dwelt on this Side the *Black Sea*, near the Banks of the *Danube*, in the Countries that are now known by the Name of the *Ukrain*, *Moldavia*, and *Walachia*. He was unsuccessful in that Expedition, well as in another against the *Greeks*, when his Army of 100,000 Men was routed by *Miltiades* with only 12,000 *Athenians*, in the Plains of *Marathon*. *Darius* was so afflicted at the Loss, that he let fly an Arrow towards Heaven with this Exclamation, O Jupiter, that I am revenged on the *Athenians*! As that his Resentment might not cool, he ordered that every Time he sat down to Table, a Page should cry aloud, Sir, think of the *Athenians*! But Death prevented the putting his Vengeance in Execution, by surprising him in the <sup>even</sup>midst of his military Preparations against that Republick, in the Year of the World 3464.

*Xerxes* his  
Son suc-  
ceeds him.

*Xerxes* I. succeeded both to his Father's Throne, and to his Hatred against the *Greeks*. He raised an Army of 1,200,000 Men, with which he marched against the *Grecian* States.

who united in one common League to oppose this formidable Power.

The King caused a Bridge of Boats to be formed between *Natolia* and *Romania*, across the *Hellepont*, which divides *Asia* from *Europe*. A Tempest carried away this Bridge; upon which he ordered the Workmen to be beheaded, had the Streight chained like a Malefactor, and the Sea whipped with Rods like a little Child.

These Extravagancies were no propitious Omens for his Enterprize, which proved altogether unfortunate. By the Means of a Traitor, he gained the Passage of *Thermopylae*; but *Pelopidas*, who commanded the *Lacedemonians* there posted, gave him a complete Overthrow, in which 20,000 *Persians* were killed on the Spot. His Troops were again routed near *Mount Arsemisus*, by *Themistocles*, General of the *Athenians*, who also beat his Navy in an Engagement near *Salamine*. *Xerxes*, repulsed by such a Number of Misfortunes, thought of returning into *Persia*. He took with him 600,000 Men, and left the rest of his Army, which still amounted to 200,000 more, to his General *Mardonius*. His Retreat had entirely the Air of a precipitate Flight; and this mighty King, who a little Time before had laid a Bridge over the *Hellepont*, was now obliged to repass it in a pitiful Skiff. Scarce 200 of the 600,000 Men he took with him, ever returned into *Persia*; the rest were either dispersed, or perished with Hunger and Fatigue. *Mardonius*, who remained in *Greece*, continued the War; but coming to a pitch'd Battle with the *Lacedemonians*, commanded

He makes  
an unsuccessful  
War upon  
the Greeks.



by *Pausanias*, he was totally routed at *Plataea*. The Relicks of his Troops were obliged to evacuate *Greece*; and the *Persian Navy*, which had hitherto made a Figure, was effectually ruined over-against *Mount Mycale*, in the Year of the World 3471.

He is assassinated.

*Artaxerxes Longimanus* succeeds him.

Such a Number of Disappointments, one upon the Neck of another, made the *Persian* Monarch quite sick of War. He proposed, at his Return into *Persia*, to pass the Residue of his Days in Pleasure; and scarce was he arrived there, but he gave himself up to Debauchery. At last, he was assassinated one Evening in his Cups, by *Artabanus* the *Hyrcanian Satrapa*. The same Nobleman dispatched also his eldest Son, *Darius*, or *Dariæus*; so that *Artaxerxes*, the second, was placed on the Throne. *Artabanus*, grown rash thro' the Success of his Enterprises, and the Impunity he met with, thought next of rising to Royalty, and conspired against the Life of the new Monarch; but the Plot was discovered, and the Traitor received his just Reward. This *Artaxerxes* is spoke of in the Books of *Ezra* and *Nehemiah*. He was called *Long-hand*, on account of the great Length of his Arms. He reigned 40 Years, and died *An. Mund.* 3525, after a long effeminate Life. His Son *Xerxes II.* succeeded him, but reigned only seven Months.

*Darius Nottus* thus reigns with little Reputation.

*Darius Nottus*, or the Bastard, mounted the Throne after the Death of *Xerxes*. He was the Son of *Artaxerxes* by one of his Concubines. He reigned 19 Years, and died with little Reputation. It was in his Time that the *Jews* finished the Building of their second Temple.

*Artaxerxes* II. firnamed *Mnemon*, succeed- *Artaxerxes* II. suc-  
ed *Nothus*, and reigned 43 Years. His Bro-ceeds.  
ther *Cyrus* attempted to dethrone him, but  
was killed in that Battle so famous among  
Historians for the Retreat of the 10,000  
*Greeks*, who came to his Assistance, and who,  
after his Death, returned Home thro' the  
*Persian* Empire, under the Conduct of *Xeno-*  
*phon*, in Spite of the Ambuscades which *Ar-*  
*taxerxes* had laid to intercept them.

*Artaxerxes* being dead, his Son *Ochus* suc- *Ochus* suc-  
ceeded him, and reigned 22 Years. He wasceeds *Ar-*  
a cruel and barbarous Prince. The *Egyp-**taxerxes*.  
*tians* revolting in his Time, he march-  
ed against them, defeated their King *Nec-*  
*tanebus*, who was obliged to take refuge  
in *Macedonia*, caused the Ox which the *E-*  
*gyptians* worshipped under the Name of *Apis*  
to be butchered, and obliged that miserable  
People to adore an *Ass*. This last God in-  
deed was as good as the other in reality, but  
not according to the Reasoning of the *Egyp-*  
*tians*, who were not brought over to this  
new Worship without a great deal of Vio-  
lence. *Ochus* committed also many Cru-  
elties against his own Subjects; so that the  
*Persians*, not thinking themselves safe under  
so barbarous a Sovereign, formed several Con-  
spiracies against his Life. At last *Bagoas*,  
one of the Generals of his Army, dispatched  
him by Poison, exposed his Flesh for a Prey He is poi-  
to the Fowls, and converted his Bones into soned.  
Knife-handles and Sword-hilts.

*Arsamenes*, by some Authors called *Arsa-* *Arsame-*  
*mes*, succeeded *Ochus* his Father. He reign-*neshis* Suc-  
ed but 3 Years, and died *Anno Mundi* 3614. cessor.



*Darius Codomanus* advanced to the Throne.

*Darius Codomanus*, a General only, was advanced to the supreme Dignity by *Bagoas*. This new King making an Entertainment one Day to all his Court, *Bagoas* ordered him to dance while himself played on the Flute, which he did tolerably well: But the King refusing, *Bagoas* was so affronted that he conspired against his Person. The Plot was seasonably discovered to *Darius*, and *Bagoas* received the Punishment he deserved.

Dethroned by *Alexander the Great*.

Every one knows, that after a Reign of only five Years, *Darius* was dethroned by *Alexander* King of *Macedon*; and that *Bessus*, one of his Grandees, murdered him, in the Year of the World 3617.

*Alexander* poisoned.

*Alexander the Great*, having conquered *Asia*, came to *Babylon*, and was there poisoned in the 32d Year of his Age, ten Years after the Death of *Darius*. His vast Acquisitions were then divided among his Generals, the chief of whom were *Perdiccas*, *Meleager*, *Ptolomey*, *Pytho*, *Eumenes*, *Artigonus*, *Cassander*, *Leonatus*, *Lysimachus*, *Craterus*, *Clearchus*, and *Antipater*, who all assumed the Title of King.

*Persia* is divided.

*Persia* was then divided between the Governments of *Asia Minor* and *Syria*: But this Division subsisted only about ninety Years when the *Persians*, weary of the *Grecian* Yoke, shook it off their Shoulders.

Empire of the *Parthians*.

There was a Province in *Persia* of very inconsiderable Extent, known by the Name of *Parthia*. The Inhabitants derived their Origin from the *Scythians*, were esteemed a brave People, and the best Archers in the World. *Hecatompolis*, the Capital of *Parthia*,

*thia*, was situated almost in the same Place where *Ispahan* now stands. The Name of *Parthians*, by which these People were distinguished, is said to signify *Exiles*, and to have been conferred on them for their flying into *Persia*, during some Commotions in their native Country. Be that as it will, these were the first People that ventured to revolt against the *Greeks*, who, after the Death of *Alexander*, were split into so many Factions, that the *Parthians* recovered their Freedom without Difficulty.

Their first King was one *Arfaces*, who Their first reigned in the Year of the World 3700. and last From him down to *Artabanus IV*, during a King. Period of about 478 Years, there were twenty-five Kings of the *Parthians*. *Artabanus IV*. was dethroned by one *Artaxerxes*, a *Persian* of mean Birth, but extraordinary Courage. The *Parthian* Empire coming to an End, that of the *Persians* revived, and flourished as before. This Revolution happened *An. Chris. 229*, in the Reign of *Alexander Severus*, Successor of *Heliogabalus*. In a Word, the *Parthians* were often at War with the *Romans*, and came off always with Honour: But their Power at last had the Fate of other sublunary Things, whose Duration is but a Dream. *Sapores I*. succeeded his Father *Artaxerxes*; and from him to *Isdegerdes*, the last King of that Race, was a Period of 408 Years.

After the Death of *Isdegerdes*, who reigned. Empire of but a few Months, the *Saracens* invaded *Per-* the Ca-  
*sia*, where their Caliphs obtained the Sove- liphs.  
reignty. — Perhaps it may be of Service



in a few Words to give the Origin of this great Revolution.

*Mahomet.* It is well known what rapid Progress the Doctrine of the false Prophet *Mahomet* made in the East. The *Persians* having received it, *Mahomet* seized the Reins of Government, and continued to impose his new Law upon the neighbouring Nations, by Force of Arms. Many Authors rack their Invention to find the Etymology of the Word *Saracens*. But the Opinion which seems to me the most probable, is that which derives this Name from the *Arabian* Word *Saraca*, *Free-booter* *Robber*; that People living only on the Pilage and Spoil of others.

*Abubecker.* After the Death of *Mahomet*, which happened in the Year 631, *Abubecker* succeeded in the Government of *Persia*. *Caliph* signifies Successor, and he was the first who bore that Name. Being old when he ascended the Throne, he filled it only two Years and a few Months.

*Omar.* *Ali*, *Mahomet's* Son-in-Law, who had married *Fatima* that Impostor's Daughter, was overjoyed at *Abubecker's* Death. At last, he thought it was his Turn to reign. But he was mistaken for the present, and *Omar* was chosen Caliph or Successor to *Abubecker*. *Omar* extended wide the Conquests of the *Saracens*. His first Enterprize was against *Syria*, which the *Grecian* Emperors till then possessed. He besieged and took *Damascus*, the Capital, after which all the rest of that vast Province submitted. This happened in the Reign of the Emperor *Heraclius*. *Omar* afterwards marched against *Palestine*, and made himself Master of *Jerusalem* in 633.

*Palest-*