

Palestine, a Country sanctified by the Presence of our Saviour, continued in the Hands of the *Saracens* till 1099, when it was wrested from them by the *Crusades*. In a Word, *Omar* was fortunate in all his Wars: He subdued *Egypt*, took *Alexandria*, at that Time its Capital; intirely extinguished the royal Family of *Persia*, and brought into Subjection those Parts of the Kingdom, which had hitherto held out against the *Arabs* and *Saracens*. He was murdered at last by one of his own Domesticks.

Osman succeeded to the Caliphate, and *Osman* was not less fortunate in War than his Predecessor. He extended his Conquests into *Africa*, and subdued all *Barbary*. He became Master of the Island of *Rhodes* in 653. At last he was assassinated by the great Men of his Court, who had entertained against him an implacable Hatred, on Account of his bestowing all the chief Employments on his own Relations.

Ali, *Mahomet's* Son-in-Law, came at last *Ali* to the Empire, tho' not without Opposition. Many Grandees refused to acknowledge him for their Sovereign, among whom the chief were one *Ajisja*, and *Muavin* Governor of *Syria*. *Ali* marched against *Ajisja*, and gave him so bloody an Overthrow, that 30,000 Men lay dead on the Field. It is said that the Camel upon which *Ajisja* rode, was stuck so full of the Enemies Arrows, that he resembled a Hedge-hog, and that seventy Hands were found hanging upon the Reins of his Bridle, which *Ajisja* had cut off from so many of *Ali's* Party, who had attempted to take him Prisoner.

After

After the Defeat of *Ajisja*, *Ali* marched against his other Competitor, the Governor of *Syria*, who had an Army at least as numerous as that of *Ali*. They met near a Place called *Saffeina*; but being both advantageously posted, neither of the Generals would run the Hazard of a decisive Battle. Both Sides contented themselves with sending out large Parties, who usually came to Blows; and it is affirmed that in 110 Days which they lay near each other, no less than ninety Skirmishes were fought. At last, being equally weakened, they began mutually to make Propositions of Peace. *Ali* nominated *Abumasa* for his Plenipotentiary, and *Muavius* chose *Amri* for his. After many Debates, they agreed that *Ali* should remain Caliph of *Persia*, and *Muavius* Caliph of *Syria*. But this compromising the Affair being disrelished by several Officers of both Armies, they consented to assassinate the two Caliphs. He who undertook to murder *Ali* succeeded so well, that he gave him a Wound which killed him in three Days: But the other, who took Charge of *Muavius*, though he wounded him with an impoisoned Sabre, did it so slightly that he was very soon cured.

Ali had reigned only four Years and nine Months. He was a Man of Genius, and wrote Commentaries upon the *Koran*, quite agreeable to the *Persian* Taste. He softened some Precepts, that, literally taken, could hardly be kept, which won him the Affection of all moderate *Mahometans*: But his Doctrine was not in Vogue till *Scheich-Adar* began to teach it, as I shall observe hereafter. The *Turks*, ever attached to the literal Sense of

of the *Koran*, abominate the Doctrine of *Ali*. The *Persians*, on the contrary, regard him as the greatest of all the Servants of God after *Mahomet*, and usually give him the pompous Title of ASSAD ALLAH AL GALED, *The invincible Lion of God*. His History is embellished with all Sorts of impertinent Miracles, and whoever is bold enough to speak of him irreverently, must pay for it with his Life.

Hussein, the Son of *Ali*, succeeded him in the Caliphate. He was soon after poisoned by his Wife. His Descendants continued to reign over the *Persians* till the Caliphate of *Arradis Billa*, when that People, weary of the *Arabian* Yoke, entertained Thoughts of delivering themselves from it. One *Mardawigus*, a *Persian* of great Resolution, sap-
Hussein.

The Family of the *Bojites*, an unfortunate Remnant of the Race of *Darius Hystaspes*, began now to revive, and renew their antient Claim to the *Persian* Diadem. This Family lived in Obscurity; and *Bojas* himself, from whom it derived its Name, had been obliged to follow the Trade of a Fisherman, to avoid the Cruelty of the *Arabian* Caliphs, who had cut off all the Descendants of the last royal Race. The *Bojites*, his Descendants, assassinated *Mardawigus*, and took Possession of the Government.
Empire of the *Bojites*.

Amadubdaulus was the first *Persian* King of this Family. He began to reign in 934, and last and his Descendants filled the Throne till King. 1055. *Melecrabim* was the last of the *Bojite* Monarchs.

He was deposed by the *Turcomans*, whose Chief, called *Togrul-Beck*, descended from
They are dispossessed by the *Turcomans*.

The HISTORY of

the Family of *Salghuck*. This Family, which Genealogists call the *Salgucides*, maintained itself on the Throne of *Persia* almost 169 Years. *Abulcasemus*, the last King of this Race, died in 1135.

Persia falls into an Anarchy, and is subdued by the *Tartars*.

After his Death an Anarchy succeeded in *Persia*, which severely felt its fatal Consequences. The *Tartars*, taking Advantage of this Disorder, entered it with an armed Force, and reduced it with little Difficulty. They maintained their Authority till 1337, when the last of their Leaders dying, every Governor of a Province sat up for Sovereign Power. A Kingdom thus divided in itself, could not long subsist: This their Neighbours comprehended well, and made use of the Opportunity to their own Advantages.

The Progress of *Tamerlan*.

*Tamerlan**, who from a simple Shepherd, was raised to the Dignity of General of the *Asiatic Tartars*, and afterwards to be King of the same People, in the 16th Year of his Reign entered into *Persia*, where every thing gave way before him. He had before subdued the *Tartars* between the *Caspian* and *Euxine Seas*; conquered *China*; like a Torrent ravaged the *Mogul Empire*, and the Kingdoms of *Siam*, *Pegu*, *Ava*, and *Japan*; not to mention many other vast Countries which he had laid desolate. He was soon looked upon as the *Attila* of the East, and the Scourge of Heaven. His Design was to bring under Subjection the three Parts of the known

* His Name was properly *Temur-lanc*, which in the *Tartar Language* signifies *Temur the lame*, which the *Europeans* have corrupted into *Tamerlans*.

World; *Asia* already received his Laws, and *Europe* came next in his System. The *Turks*, who were established in *Asia Minor*, well foresaw, that if *Tamerlan* aimed at carrying his Arms into *Europe*, they should be first exposed to his Invasions, as lying exactly in his Way: For which Reason *Bajazet* I. their grand Sultan, entered into an Alliance with *Emanuel* II. Emperor of *Constantinople*, to oppose this haughty Conqueror.

Tamerlan, informed of what *Bajazet* had He makes done, marched against him with an Army of War on 500,000 Warriors. That of *Bajazet*, united the *Turks*. with the *Greeks*, was not less numerous. These two mighty Hosts met in *Natolia*, and came to an Engagement, wherein the Fortune of *Tamerlan* triumphed over the Valour of the *Turks*. What contributed the most to this Victory, was the Desertion of the *Tartars* in *Bajazet*'s Army, who, at the Beginning of the Action, revolted to *Tamerlan*. There was a terrible Slaughter of *Turks* and Takes *Greeks*: And the unhappy *Bajazet*, after their Sul- having done all that could be expected from tan Priso- a great Commander, seeing there was no ner, and Possibility of restoring Affairs, fled for his Life treats him. in the Habit of a Soldier. But his ill Fortune like a Dog. so contrived it, that his Hounds, which went every where in his Train, and were here to the Number of 7,000, followed him by the Track, and set up such a Cry as discovered him to the pursuing *Tartars*. He was brought alive to *Tamerlan*, who put him into an Iron Cage, and treated him like a Dog; till at last, through a Sense of the Indignities imposed on him by the Conqueror, the unhappy Prince died with Excess of Grief.

After

His Pro-
jects.

After this Victory *Tamerlan* thought of no less than passing into *France*; of subduing *Italy*, *Spain*, and *Germany*: But he was soon called to another Quarter, upon the News that Part of *India* had revolted. He set forwards to go and punish these Rebels; but had not been many Days upon the Road before he fell sick, and died in the Year of our Lord 1404.

His Death
and Cha-
racter.

Tamerlan might have been compared with *Alexander the Great*, for the Rapidity of his Conquests, and the Number of his Victories, if he had not sullied them by the Cruelty of his Actions. It was his Custom when he laid Siege to any Place, to have three Flags displayed at the Head of the Camp for three successive Days: The first was white, the second red, and the third black. At the Beginning of the Siege the white one was set up, which signified to the Inhabitants, that if they surrendered immediately, they should receive no Damage. If they waited for the red one, that was a Signal that the Heads of the City must suffer Death. But if they did not submit before the black one took Place, there was no Quarter to be expected for any of the Inhabitants, but all to a Man were put to the Sword. The City of *Sebastia*, or *Sivas*, in *Cappadocia*, experienced the Fury of this Conqueror on such an Occasion. The white flag had been hung out, and disregarded by the Citizens. Some Days after the red one appeared; when the Besieged, seeing themselves in great Distress, capitulated. *Tamerlan* pardoned the Tradesmen and Mechanicks; but all the Persons of Quality who were found

When he
besieged a
Place, he
set up
three
Flags.

found there, suffered a Death which one trembles to think of.

After the Death of *Tamerlan*, a People The *Tur-*
sprung from *Turcomania* invaded *Persia*. *comans* re-
They were divided into two Factions, that enter *Per-*
of the *black* and that of the *white Ram*. The *sia*, and are
Faction of the *black Ram* was first established divided
in *Persia*, and supplied it with five Kings, into two
who reigned sixty-one Years, from 1408 Factions.
till 1469. The first of these Kings was called
Kara-Issuf, which signifies *Joseph the Black*.
The last was *Azelany*.

The Faction of the *white Ram* supplanted Accession
that of the *black*. *Usumcassan*, its Chief, of *Usum-*
seized the Reins of Empire, and held them *cassan* to
eight or nine Years, till 1478. He was one the
of the greatest and most powerful Monarchs Throne.
that ever sat on the *Persian* Throne. He
married a Christian Princess, descended from
the Emperor of *Trebizonde*, which was the
Cause of his declaring War against the *Turks*.
Mahomet II. had effectually put an End to
the *Grecian* Empire, by making himself
Master of *Constantinople*. *Usumcassan* sent to
him a magnificent Embassy, under Pretence
of felicitating him on his Success, but in rea-
lity to demand the Restitution of *Cilicia*, and
whatever had belonged to the Empire of *Tre-*
bizond, upon which *Usumcassan* had Preten-
sions. *Mahomet* amused the Ambassadors for
some Time with fair Promises, and in the
mean while prepared for his Defence.

It gave the utmost Satisfaction to all He makes
Christendom, when the Misunderstanding be- War on
tween these two Princes came to be known. t. e. *Turks*.
The Power of *Mahomet II.* had spread an
Alarm over all *Europe*, and the *Venetians*, in
particular, were in great Consternation since

the Taking of *Constantinople*. They wanted nothing better than to see the Sultan employed in *Asia*, lest he should turn his Arms against their Republick, which he might now easily invade. They made an Alliance therefore with *Usumcassan*, and engaged to furnish him with a Fleet, and with Ammunitions. In 1472 the Hostilities began between the *Persians* and the *Turks*, in which the former got several Advantages on the Side of the *Euphrates*. The next Year they pushed the War into the very Heart of *Natolia*, where they routed a Body of 30,000 *Turks*. *Mahomet* alarmed at the Enemy's Successes, advanced with his main Army, 300,000 strong. That of the *Persians* was equally numerous. They came to a general Engagement, in which the *Turks* had the Superiority. They owed their Victory to a few Pieces of Cannon and Hand-Guns, of which they had just learned the Use, and the Sound of which so terrified the *Persian* Cavalry, that they took to Flight. The greatest Part of the Infantry, environed on all Sides by the *Turks*, laid down their Arms: But a very few escaped; and the rest were killed on the Spot.

Mahomet's
Cruelty to
the Cap-
tives.

Mahomet took a great Number of Prisoners, whom he used with unparallel'd Cruelty. Every Evening, when his Army came into Quarters, he ordered 500 of the unhappy Victims to be cut in two at the Waist, and their divided Bodies to be strew'd over the adjacent Fields. This Barbarity spread such a Panic, that the *Persian* Court scarcely thought itself in Safety.

Usum-

Usumcassan's Stedfastness re-established every one else. He ordered new Levies through all his vast Dominions, and used the utmost Diligence to repair his Losses: But an Accident happened which disconcerted all his Projects. His eldest Son, whose Name was *Ungermaumeth*, impatient of coming to the Throne, conspired against his Father. *Usumcassan* was so beloved by his Subjects, that not one offered to second the pernicious Designs of the Prince. Perceiving he should not be supported, and fearing the Resentment of his Father, *Ungermaumeth* escaped secretly out of *Persia*, and took Refuge in the Court of *Mahomet II.* *Usumcassan*, justly irritated at his Son's Conduct, meditated Revenge. To effect it he feigned himself sick, had the Gates of his Palace all shut, and a Report given out soon after that he was dead. The News quickly arrived at the Court of *Constantinople*, where the Prince resided, who, persuaded of the Truth of what he heard, made all possible Haste to take Possession of the Kingdom of *Persia.* *Usumcassan* had his proper Spies, who soon gave Advice of the Son's Arrival. He ordered him to be received with great Marks of Joy and Respect, and that, leaving him still in the Dark, they should bring him into the Palace, as if to assist at the Funeral Obsequies of the King his Father. The poor Prince, imposed upon by those about him, who appeared all in Mourning, suffered himself to be conducted into the Palace Royal. But how was he surprised when he saw the King himself sitting upon his Throne, in a very different State from what he had expected! His Reception was such as he deserved.

After reproaching him with his Crime, *Usumcassan* had him locked up in Prison, where within a few Days he was strangled.

His Son
Yacubeck
succeeds,
whose
Wife
endea-
vours to
poison
him.

Usumcassan died in the 78th Year of his Age, a short Time after the Death of his Son. *Yacubeck*, or *Jacobus*, his second Son, succeeded him. This Prince had a treacherous Wife, who being in Love with a *Persian* Lord, resolved to poison her Husband and advance her Lover to the Throne. For this Purpose she prepared a very subtil Poison, which she put into a Liquor that she gave the King at his Coming out of the Bath. The King mistrusted her Fidelity, and observing her Countenance to turn pale in the Instant, declared that he would not drink, unless after her.

The Queen, seeing her Death inevitable, did not long consider which Party to take. The Poison seemed the easiest Way. Besides, she still hoped that the King would follow her Example; and it was no little Matter with a Woman of her Character, that she could have the Consolation of destroying her Husband with herself. She took the Draught, and swallowed a Part of it. The King, who now apprehended no Danger, took also a reasonable Dose, and gave the rest to his eldest Son, a Child about 8 Years old. They were all three found the next Morning dead in their Beds.

There were some other Kings of the Faction of the White Ram, whose Lives had nothing remarkable enough to engage our Attention. *Alvantes*, the last, reigned only 8 Months, and was succeeded by *Ismael Sephi*.

The

The Family of the *Sophi's* is so famous in the History of *Persia*, that I cannot forbear giving an Account of it in this Place; more especially as the late Kings, immediate Predecessors of *Kouli Kan*, were descended from it. One *Sophi*, or *Sephi*, who descended from *Muza-Kaizem*, one of the twelve Grandsons of *Ali*, was the Founder of it. He made himself known about the End of the fourteenth Century, by so exemplary a Life, that he is looked upon in *Persia* as a Saint of the first Rank. *Tamerlan* earnestly sought his Acquaintance, and was so charmed with his Sweetness and Piety, that on his Return from the Campaign in which he defeated *Bajazet*, he made him a Present of 30,000 Captives, which he had taken on that memorable Day.

Origin
of the Fa-
mily of the
Sophi's.
Character
of their
Head.

Sophi was one of the greatest Champions of the Sect of *Ali*. He preached his Doctrine to all who would attend it, and by that Means secured a considerable Party. As he had private Views, he endeavoured to engage to his Interest the 30,000 Captives before-mentioned. He instructed them in the Doctrine of *Ali*, and treated them with so much Moderation and Goodness, that these unhappy Wretches, who expected to feel the Effects of *Tamerlan's* Cruelty, were melted by the Generosity of their Benefactor, and bound to him by Ties of the most lively Gratitude, of which they zealously gave Testimony, both to him and to his Posterity. *Sophi*, observing Matters to take so favourable a Turn, waited only for a propitious Moment to take the Advantage of the People's

Disposition; but died while he was in the Expectation.

Guimenes,
one of his
Sons.

Scheich
Aidar, a-
nother
Son.

His Son *Guimenes* succeeded in the Office of Prophet, and Head of the Sect of *Ali*. As he had not near the Genius of his Father, he did nothing remarkable: But in return, there was another Son, called *Scheich Aidar-Sophi*, who made himself so much respected, that *Usumcassan* did not scruple to bestow on him his Daughter *Martha* in Marriage, whom he had by his Wife the Daughter of *Calo-John* Emperor of *Trebizond*. *Scheich Aidar* knew so well how to render himself popular, by a Pretence to Piety and Zeal for the Doctrine of *Ali*, that he drew an infinite Number over to his Interest. A prodigious Crowd followed him wherever he went, and he soon became as formidable a Prince, as he was before a devout Prophet. He was a great Politician, and had the Address to persuade his Partizans, that there was no Paradise but for those who adhered to the Doctrine of *Ali*, in the Manner he preached it. He usually resided at *Ardebil*, which is said to have been his Lordship, as it was that of his Ancestors. There he taught publickly the Doctrine of *Ali*; and, that he might give no Umbrage to the Court, shewed the utmost Contempt for Riches and Honour. In a Word, he affected to have nothing in View but the spiritual Good of Souls.

Suspected
by *Rustan*,
who
gets him
assassinat-
ed.

But how deep soever was his Diffimulation, he could not avoid the Suspicion of *Rustan*, one of the Successors of *Usumcassan*. This Prince, frightened at the Concourse of People that assembled round *Scheich Aidar*, and at the Reputation he acquired, apprehended he

he might abuse these Advantages by exciting a Rebellion: Especially as he seemed to have an incontestable Right to the Crown of *Persia*, after the Death of *Usumcassan's* Children, from his Marriage with the Daughter of that Monarch. *Rustan* was one of those incredulous Sort of Men who cannot trust to a pious Outside, but are apt to suspect that the more humble and self-denying a Saint appears, the more Pride and Ambition he has in his Heart. Upon this Principle he concluded, that the surest Way he could take was to get rid of such a Competitor, who was but so much the more dangerous, the less he pretended to Competition. He sent out proper Persons, who soon delivered him from his Fears, by assassinating *Scheich Aidar* even in *Ardebil* itself.

Scheich Aidar left three Sons at his Death; two of whom, then at Years of Discretion, fled from the Danger that threatened them, one into *Natolia*, the other to *Aleppo*. The Fate of his three Sons.

Ismael, the third, who was yet an Infant, was brought up by his Father's Friends, and removed into *Hyrkania*, in the Family of one *Pyrchalim*, the Lord of several Places on the Borders of the *Caspian Sea*, and who had been a great Stickler for *Scheich Aidar*. Character of *Ismael* the youngest.

Pyrchalim took great Care both of the Person and Education of young *Ismael*; had him instructed in the Doctrine of *Ali*, and all the Sciences becoming a Person born for the greatest Things. The Youth perfectly well answered his Protector's Expectation; possessed an infinite deal of Wit and Penetration, and, besides these excellent Qualities,

ties, had all the Advantages of a fine Person. He was extremely Eloquent and Persuasive: The Graces of his Voice, joined to those of his Figure, won immediately on the Hearts of Men; and laid a Foundation for the most towering Hopes. These were greatly augmented by a Prediction of *Scheich Aidar* his Father, who passed for a learned Astrologer and great Prophet. He declared that his Son *Ismael* would become the greatest Conqueror of the East, and that, if God preserved his Life, he should even equal the Glory of *Mahomet* himself.

Ismael, arrived at Years of Maturity, began to make the best of the Talents which Nature had given him. His Eloquence soon got him a considerable Party; and it was not merely the Populace that declared for him, as in the Days of his Father, but the chief Men of the Kingdom. *Ismael* well understood the Rights he had to the Crown; but thought proper to dissemble, and, like his Father, affect a Contempt for the Honours of this World. This was only till he saw himself well supported. He then began to urge his Pretensions, demanding first to be put in Possession of the Estates which *Usumcassan* had left his Mother, and which were situated in *Armenia*. Upon the Court's refusing to comply with this, he disciplined a petty Army, to which he added some Troops that were sent him by *Pyrchalim*. With these he marched into *Armenia*, and seized on the Lands that were his just Inheritance.

His Con-
quests.

Encouraged by the first Success, and seeing his Army every Day increase, *Ismael* advanced against the Castle of *Marmulac*, where a
pro-

prodigious deal of Wealth was repositied. He soon took the Castle, and carried off the Treasure. Next he threw himself into *Mesopotamia*, besieged *Sumach* the Capital, took it, and left the Plunder of it to his Soldiers.

The Fame of his Conquests soon spread itself all over *Persia*, and every one said that the Prophecy of *Scheich Aidar* was about to be accomplished. The good Condition *Ismael's* Troops were known to be in, and the Booty they had acquired, animated the most Inactive, and brought him in Recruits from every Quarter. He wanted neither Arms nor Ammunition; his only Deficiency was of good Officers: But the Nobility beginning to come over to him, he had soon a very gallant and well-disciplin'd Army.

The Court then resided at *Tauris*. *Alvantes* was at last on the Throne, in Spite of the Opposition of his Brother *Morat-Kan*, whom he had defeated in a pitched Battle. But this new King made an ill Use of his Victory, and some of the chief Men in *Persia* fell a Sacrifice to his Vengeance. He caused to be executed at *Tauris*, not only a great Number of Lords who had been in Arms for his Brother, but even others whom he only suspected to have favoured him. This Conduct drew down on him the Hatred of the Nobility, and alienated the Hearts of all the Inhabitants of *Tauris*.

Ismael, informed of these Circumstances, seized the happy Occasion, and marched directly to *Tauris*. Scarce did his Van-guard appear, but the Inhabitants threw open their Gates. *Alvantes*, seeing himself abandoned by all his Subjects, reduced only to his Guards,

His War
against
Alvantes
and *Morat*
Kan.

Guards, and the hostile Army ready to enter the City, could think of nothing but Flight. He put his Project so suddenly in Execution, that he had Time enough to secure his Person. *Ismael* entered the City, and had the Pleasure to see himself Master of that Capital, without shedding a Drop of Blood.

Having given his Troops sufficient Repose, he prepared to follow the fugitive King. In the mean while he learn'd that *Morat-Kan*, Brother of this Prince, having saved himself in the Neighbourhood of *Babylon* after his Defeat, and there raised an Army, had made Peace with his Brother, and was going to join him with his Troops, to oppose one whom they looked upon as their common Enemy. This vexatious Piece of News no way incommoded *Ismael*, who now rightly judged that all the Success depended on his Diligence, which must be to hinder the Junction of his two Antagonists. *Alvantes* was then in *Armenia*, at the Head of a considerable Army. *Ismael* directed his Route that Way, and marched with such Expedition, that he came up with the King before he was joined by his Brother. The Battle began, and was at first very obstinate. *Alvantes*, resolved either to perish or recover his Crown, behaved gallantly: But being killed in the second Charge, his Troops lost heart, and made little more Resistance.

Morat Kan, who was distant but three Days March, hearing of the Defeat and Death of his Brother, turned off towards *Tauris*, in hopes to reduce it before *Ismael* could come to its Succour. He was mistaken however, and

and found he had to do with an active Enemy, and one who had good Intelligence. *Ismael* was at his Heels, overtook him about Mid-way to *Tauris*, gave him Battle, and totally routed his Army. *Morat Kan* got off with a few of his Cavalry, and retired into the Estates of *Aladul* King of *Cappadocia*. *Ismael*, by this Retreat, was left in sole Possession of the Crown of *Persia*.

This great Revolution happened in the Year 1499. The next Year *Ismael* prepared to go in Quest of *Morat Kan*, even in the States of the King of *Cappadocia*. He entered them with an Army of 70,000 Men; but made no great Progress, the Season being far advanced, and Provisions having run short from the Beginning. In 1501 he returned at the Head of 40,000 Soldiers, and was more fortunate than before: For meeting the Army of *Morat Kan* and *Aladul* near *Babylon*, he gave them an entire Defeat. *Morat Kan* took shelter with the Sultan of *Egypt*, and never appeared more in *Persia*. *Aladul* retired into *Cappadocia*. *Ismael*, taking the Advantage of his Victory, seized on *Babylon*, and subdued all *Mesopotamia*, with some other neighbouring Provinces.

Being delivered from his Competitors, he in the next Place chastised the *Tartars*, the *Iberians*, and the *Albanians*, * who had for some Time refused to pay the established Tribute to the Kings of *Persia*.

* I must inform the Reader, that he should be careful not to confound the *Persian Albania* with a Province of the same Name in *Greece*, upon the Borders of *Macedonia*.

Having

Makes

War upon
the King
of Samar-
cand.

Having reduced these People to Reason, *Ismael* declared War against the King of *Samar-
cand*, one of the most powerful Princes of the East ; and gained one of the most glorious of all his Victories. The Sultan of *Egypt* was alarmed at this, and *Bajazet II.* the Emperor of the *Turks*, trembled for his own Estates. It was not without Cause that these two Potentates dreaded *Ismael*. The Valour of this heroic Prince, the Love and Fidelity of his Troops, and their good Order and Discipline, were the Subject of all Conversations.

Bajazet
declares
War a-
gainst *Is-
mael*.

Bajazet was the first who attempted to oppose this Torrent. He declared War against *Ismael*: But as he carried it on by his Vizirs only, *Ismael* was content to send against him valiant and experienced General. No remarkable Advantage was gained on either Side, till *Selim*, Successor to *Bajazet*, putting himself at the Head of his Troops, *Ismael* also commanded his in Person. Battle ensued, in which *Selim* had somewhat the better, by means of his Artillery of which the *Persians* knew little. *Selim* upon this got Possession of *Tauris*: But *Ismael* having recovered his Loss, made haste to engage him afresh. The *Turk* did not think fit to wait his coming: He had lost many Men in his Victory, and the *Fanissaries* were so disheartened, that he saw himself obliged to retire with Precipitation, and leave behind him Part of his Cannon.

Proof of the
Affection
of *Ismael's*
Soldiers.

It has been remarked as a very singular Thing, and a Proof of the Soldiers prodigious Esteem for *Ismael*, that during the Course of this and all his preceding Wars

not one *Persian* ever deserted; whereas the *Turks* came by Hundreds into *Ismael's* Camp. It was as much to this Affection of his Soldiers, as to his own wise Conduct, that he owed the Expulsion of *Selim*, who, spite of all his Efforts, could never wrest from him an Inch of his Conquests.

Ismael died in Peace Anno 1525, in the 45th Year of his Age. The Love of his People, and the hearty Esteem of all his Soldiers, accompanied him to his Grave; which is doubtless the finest Panegyric that can be made of a great Prince. He left four Sons, *Thamas*, *Helcas*, *Bocram*, and *Sormisa*. The first, aged 18, succeeded him, and the others received each his Appointment, agreeable to a Regulation in *Ismael's* Will. *Thamas* had neither the Wisdom, the Genius, nor the Valour of his Father: He was an effeminate Prince, and run into all Sorts of Irregularities. Of the three Brothers, *Helcas* had *Assyria* and *Mesopotamia*, with the City of *Babylon*; *Bocram* had *Media*, *Georgia*, and *Albania*; and *Sormisa* had *Parthia*, or the Province of *Chorasan*: But all these Estates were soon reunited to the Crown of *Persia*, by the Death of the several Princes. The first, revolting against *Thamas*, was taken and executed: The second fell a Victim to the King his Brother's Suspicions; and the third died a natural Death, or perhaps with the Fear of being also sacrificed in his Turn.

Tho' *Thamas* seemed immersed wholly in Pleasures, he had yet a warlike Inclination, but wanted the Resolution to engage first in the pursuit of it. The *Turks* soon found him Employment. *Soliman II.* their Emperor at
H that

His Death.

His Son
Thamas
succeeds
him.

Soliman II.
makes
War a
gainst
him.

that Time, had entertained at his Court a *Persian* Lord, Brother-in-Law of *Thamas*, who was fled thither on some Discontent. This Nobleman was continually stirring up *Soliman* to make War upon *Thamas*; but the Sultan did not seem over-forward for such an Undertaking. At last, by working upon *Ibrahim-Bassa*, the Favourite, he brought it about, and *Soliman* marched against *Persia*. *Thamas*, on his Approach, abandoned the City of *Tauris*; which the other seized at his Arrival. He went next to *Sultania*, which *Tamerlan* had half demolished; but thinking to repose his Troops before he attacked this Place, where *Thamas*, in his Retreat, had left a strong Garrison, a most furious Tempest obliged him to march back. He then turned towards *Assyria*; took the whole Province with the City of *Babylon*; also *Mesopotamia*, *Curdistan*, and *Diarëeck*. He caused himself to be crowned King of *Persia* at *Babylon*, by the Caliph of that City, to whom that Office belonged as Sovereign Pontiff of the *Mahometan* Religion. *Soliman* passed the Winter at *Babylon*, and supplied the Losses in his Army by Recruits that came from *Egypt* and *Syria*. The Spring following he retook the Field, and marched again towards *Tauris*; which *Thamas*, who had returned thither in his Absence, abandoned afresh, and retired as before into the Mountains, waiting only a favourable Opportunity to surprise the *Turks*. In his Retreat, he took care to ravage all the neighbouring Territories, to take from the Enemies all Means of Subsistence.

The Success answered his Wish. The *Turks*, unable to support themselves in *Persia*, pillaged and abandoned *Tauris*, and took the Road back for *Turkey*. *Thamas* now saw it was Time to come forth from the Mountains, and return to *Tauris*, which he found in a wretched Condition. He had a General in his Army named *Deliment*, a Native of *Caramania*, a Man of great Wit and Courage. *Thamas* trusted him with the Command of his Troops, and ordered him to pursue the *Turks*. *Deliment* perfectly well executed his Commission: He overtook the Enemy near *Bettis*, on the Left of the Lake *Van*, and found them in all the Disorder common to a precipitate Retreat: He fell upon them with the utmost Fury, put them almost all to the Sword, and *Soliman* himself had scarce Time to escape. It is said that of 500,000 *Turks*, which had passed the *Euphrates*, scarce 80,000 returned to *Constantinople*. *Soliman* was so enraged at this ill Success, that he put to Death *Ibrahim-Bassa* on his Arrival at that Capital. He kept Possession however of *Assyria* and *Mesopotamia*; but they cost him so dear, that he had rather they had been left unconquered.

Persia remained quiet on the Side of the *Turks*, as long as *Soliman* felt the Loss he had sustained: But no sooner were his Affairs re-established, than he made Preparations for renewing the War. The Subject of the Quarrel was, that his Son *Bajazet* having made his Escape, had taken Refuge in the Court of *Thamas*. *Soliman* demanded him back; but *Thamas* refused to comply, without the Consent of the young Prince

himself. Upon this *Soliman* took the Field with an Army of 200,000 Men. The *Persian*, dreading the Artillery of the *Turks*, took into his Service 10,000 *Portuguese* which Nation, at that Time, made a great Figure in the East. They brought with them a very considerable Artillery for that Time, and knew infinitely better how to employ it than the *Turks*. Thus supported *Thamas* advanced to the Banks of the *Euphrates*, where the Enemy was posted. The two Armies, being in Sight of each, were not long before they came to Blows, where the Valour and Address of the *Portuguese* triumphed over the Obstinacy of the *Turks*. *Soliman* himself was wounded, his whole Army broken and put to the flight, and above 130,000 Men lost on the Field of Battle. *Thamas*, at the Head of his *Persians*, pursued the flying Enemy far, and made a great Slaughter among them. The Sultan, disheartened by this terrible Shock, made Propositions of Peace that were attended to. He required *Thamas* to put *Bajazet* to Death and this cruel King was not ashamed to violate the Rights of Hospitality: The unhappy Prince was murdered, and his Head sent to *Soliman*.

Thamas
removes
his Residence to
Casbin.

Thamas abandoned *Tauris*, where the Kings his Predecessors had resided, and removed his Residence to *Casbin*. The Reason given for it was, that *Tauris* was too near *Ardebil*, which put him in mind of the original Circumstances of *Scheich Aidar* his Grandfather.

His Death.

He died in 1576, aged 68 Years; having nominated for his Successor in the Empire *Caidar*.

Caidar-Mirizes his third Son, then only 17 Years old. This Choice however did not seem equitable to the *Grandeess*, who besides had no Esteem for *Caidar-Mirizes*: They paid no Respect therefore to the last Will of their Monarch, but made a Tender of the Crown to his eldest Son *Codabende*, who was retired into the Province of *Chorasan*. *Codabende* refused the Royal Dignity, which was then offered to his Brother *Ismael*, who accepted it. He was 43 Years of Age when they brought him out of Prison to place him on a Throne. This Prince, whose Father had confined him upon some Suspicions he had conceived of his Fidelity, had all those warlike Qualities which dazzle the Eyes of Military Men. He had distinguished himself in several Rencounters with the *Turks*; and this Valour of his was what had made him suspected by his Father. He had formerly appeared gentle and humane; but his long Imprisonment had so soured his Temper, that he was become like a Beast of Prey. No sooner was he on the Throne, than he distinguished his Cruelty by the Death of *Caidar-Mirizes* his Brother. He afterwards took it in his Brain to pass for Dead, in order to know who were disaffected to him. The Stratagem succeeded, and no sooner was the Report of his Death noised abroad, but those who did not love him began to blacken his Memory. He had his Spies in every Quarter, who brought him Advice of what Numbers of People said concerning him. As many as possible of the Accused were arrested. Abundance escaped into the Extremity of the Kingdom, whither *Ismael* pursued them.

His Son
Ismael
succeeds
him.

them with a Body of Cavalry. The *Turks*, who had Garisons on that Side, imagined an Excursion was designed against them. They put themselves in a Posture of Defence, taking this March of *Ismael* for a Declaration of War. That Prince, seeing himself unable to maintain a domestick and foreign War at the same Time, dispatched the most suspected of his Subjects by the Hands of his Executioners, and then prepared to attack the *Turks*. He was prevented however by a Dose of Poison, which his Sister *Petiaconcona* gave him at the Request of his Nobles.

He is poi-
soned.

Codabende
elected.

Ismael II. was no sooner dead, but the *Persian* Lords sent a Deputation to *Codabende*, to intreat him to accept the Crown. He refused it at first, but at last yielded to the Instances of the Deputies. He stained with Blood the Beginning of his Reign, by putting to Death three of his Brothers that had fled towards the Frontiers of *Turkey*, whom he prevailed on to return by his fair Promises. A King who puts to Death his near Relations, at the Expence of his royal Word, doubtless cannot be a very good Man: But we must not expect the most delicate Moral from these *Mahometans*.

His Death.
His eldest
Son suc-
ceeds; is
murdered
by *Ismael*,
who as-
cends the
Throne.

Codabende made War against the *Turks*, and with Advantage. He died in 1585, leaving three Sons, of whom *Emir-Hemse*, the eldest, succeeded him. He had reigned but a few Months, when his Brother *Ismael* assassinated him, and ascended the Throne. *Ismael* had no sooner got the Reins of Government, but he sought to get rid of *Abas* his third Brother. But the Governor of that young Prince, who foresaw his own Life depen-

depended on that of his Pupil, resolved to revent the ill Designs of the King, and engaged several Grandees in his Party.

One of *Ismael's* Valet-de-Chambres, prevailed on by Bribes, took upon him to rid them of his Master, and one Day cut his Throat as he was shaving him. The Conspirators, who were present at this Execution, immediately dispatched the Valet, lest he should discover the Authors of the Treason.

A Valet-de-Chambre cuts his Throat.

Abas, or *Schah-Abas*, surnamed *the Great*, on account both of his long Reign, and the great Things he performed, succeeded his Brother *Ismael III*, being no more than eighteen Years of Age. He had very great Qualities, and might have passed as well for a good and wise King, as for a great Conqueror, if he had not been guilty of Cruelty and Ingratitude towards *Murschild-Kuli-Kan* his Governor, to whom he owed his Crown; and whom he unmercifully murdered, because this unhappy Man was too free with him in making Remonstrances concerning his Conduct. He was not even contented with this, but cut off his whole Family, that he might be safe from their just Resentment. This Rigour gave the Grandees sufficiently to understand, that they had little Confidence to expect from a Prince who seemed resolved to govern alone, and only laughed at the Advice of his Ministers.

Accession of *Schah-Abas* to the Throne of *Persia*.

The Ill-becoming of his Reign.

Schah-Abas wholly gave way to his warlike Inclination. He formed a Design of reconquering all the Provinces that *Persia* had lost since the Reign of *Ismael I*. He began with the *Ushck Tartars*, who had fallen upon the Province of *Chorasan*, of which himself had been Governor in his Minority. This

He gives himself up to his warlike Humour.

Pro-

Province, only a small Part of which now belongs to *Persia*, is situated on the South East of the *Caspian-Sea*. *Abas* forced *Abdulla*, Prince of the *Usbecks*, to retire into * *Mesched*, at the Extremity of the Province. The Year following he defeated the same Prince, took him and his Children Prisoners and caused them all to be beheaded. The Consequence of this Victory was the Reduction of all *Chorasan*, which *Schah-Abas* re-established in good Order and Security. He then declared War against the *Turks*, from whom he had much more to re-conquer than from the *Tartars*. They had taken from *Persia* a Tract of Land of above 150 Leagues in Breadth, from the Western Coast of the *Caspian* quite to the *Black Sea*; and as much in Length, computing from *Tauris* to the Extremities of the Kingdom of *Caket*.

His Con-
quests.

Schah Abas recovered all these vast Countries out of the Hands of the *Turks*. He did yet more, and even conquered a great Number of Places upon the *Black-Sea*; among which was a Port near *Trebizonde*. He did the same from the Mouth of the *Euphrate* to the *Red-Sea*, and along the Coast of that down to the Ocean; taking, among other Towns in *Arabia*, that of *Medina*, so famous for being the Birth-place of their false Prophet. Upon the *Persian Gulph* he took *Balsora*, wrested the Isle of *Ormuz* from the *Portuguese*, and much lessened the Power of that Nation in *Asia*.

* This Place is become famous in *Persia* for the Pilgrimage which the same *Schah-Abas* established thither; which serves the *Persians* instead of one to *Mecca*.

After

After having thus extended the Boundaries, he began to think of reforming the Interior of his Empire. Many of the great Men in *Persia*, during the Troubles of the Kingdom, had found the Secret to get in Possession of sovereign Power. *Schah Abas* undertook to reduce them to Subjection, which he accomplished by the Depth of his Politicks, as much as by the respectful Awe that his Exploits had impressed on the Minds of all Men. In a Word, he established such a despotick Power, as had not been seen a long Time before in *Persia*.

He reforms his Kingdom.

As he grew old, he became suspicious; and the End of his Life was again sullied with the innocent Blood he caused to be spilt. He imagined that his Sons had a Design to depose him, and in that Idea had the Eyes of the two youngest put out, reserving *Sephi-Mirza*, the eldest, for his Successor: But afterwards, entertaining some Suspicions against him, as ill-grounded as the former, he had him assassinated. It was not long before he repented of this Cruelty, and grew so melancholic, that he would see nobody. Eleven Days he shut himself up, weeping and lamenting the Death of a Son whom he so tenderly loved, and yet whose Murderer he had been. *Sephi-Mirza* left a Son, named *Sain Mirza*. *Schah-Abas* adopted him for his Successor, that he might in some Sort repair the Injury done to the Father; and when some of his Lords represented to him, that, according to the Predictions of Astrologers, if *Sain Mirza* ascended the Throne, he would not reign above three Months; *What signifies it*, answered the King, *if he reigns but*

Grows suspicious and cruel in his old Age.

Has his eldest Son assassinated.

but three Days, provided he reigns, and that I have the Consolation to leave a young Shoot from my Son Sephi-Mirza upon the Throne!

His Death.

Schah Abas died a few Days after, *An. 1629*, in the sixty-third Year of his Age, and the forty-fifth of his Reign. He breathed his last at *Ferhabad*, a City he had built in the Province of *Mazanderan*, on the South of the *Caspian-Sea*, and where he delighted to reside more than in any other Place in his Kingdom.

His Grandson succeeds him.

He required his Successor to assume the Name of *Sephi*, in Memory of his Son whom he had so unjustly put to Death.

Schah Sephi surpassed all his Predecessors in Cruelty. He committed so many Outrages, that it was at length resolved to get rid of him. This Resolution was taken even in his *Haram*, among his Wives and Concubines. It being agreed to do it by Poison, they gave him a Dose of it, which not being strong enough, he recovered after some Months Disorder. No sooner was he well, but he assiduously sought out the Authors of his intended Murder. ~~He~~ made so exact a Scrutiny, that the whole Scene was laid open. Then were seen the most severe Marks of his Cruelty. He ordered a great Pit to be dug in the Gardens of his *Haram*, in which forty Women were buried alive, among whom was his Aunt, and some say even his own Mother. This barbarous Prince had hardly one good Quality. He was rather savage than valiant: For he suffered the two most important Places in his Kingdom, *Bagdat* in the West, and *Candahar* in the East, to be taken from him.

Though poisoned, he does not die of it.

Schah

Schah Sephi died at last in the Year 1642, His Death. which was the twelfth of his Reign.

Abas II. succeeded him. Though he was *Abas II.* his only Son, he had narrowly escaped being succeeds he Victim of his Father's Cruelty. *Schah* him. *Sephi* was a Lover of Wine, and when he was drunk would give out the most bloody Orders. One Day when he had drank freely, he ordered a Eunuch of his Court to apply the Searing-Iron to his Son's Eyes. His Intention was, that the Iron should be hot: But the Eunuch reflecting, that the King had no other Son to succeed him, and that besides his Orders were not explicit, he took Pity of How he the young Prince, and only made use of the escapes his cold Iron. He let the Prince afterwards into Father's the whole Secret; who so well counterfeited Orders for Blindness, that the King was deceived. At burning last, when he drew near his End, *Sephi* seemed out his very uneasy that he should leave no Successor. The Eunuch, who observed his Eyes. Discontent, informed him of all he had done to preserve his Son. The King sent for him instantly; declared him his Successor; and the Pleasure he conceived to see him sound and perfect was so great, that it was thought to prolong his Life till the next Day.

The *Persians* had no Room to complain His Character. of their new King, who governed with great Moderation, and was one of the best of all the Race of the *Sophies*. Being but thirteen Years old when he began to reign, he committed the Cares of Government to his Mother, assisted by *Athematdoulet*, an old Man of near eighty, in whom that Princess had great Confidence. This venerable Minister was at last killed by one of the Lords of the Court;

Under-
takes a
War a-
gainst the
Mogul.

Court; and though the King was but nineteen Years old, he then took the Resolution to reign alone. He distinguished his Reign by a just War which he undertook against the Mogul, to whom his Father *Sephi* had been obliged to make a Cession of *Candahar*. He retook this Place, and maintained it against all the Efforts of the Mogul to dispossess him of it again. History gives many Instances of *Abas* the Second's Love of Justice, one of which I shall mention, as it deserves a Place here for its Singularity.

An *Armenian* coming into a *Persian* Mosque, took up one of those Fish which the *Mahometans* esteem sacred, and which they keep in a Basin just by the Mosque. A *Persian*, who saw this Action of the *Armenians*, killed him upon the Spot, and obtained his Pardon of the Pontiff. *Abas*, hearing of the Affair, sent for the High-Priest, reprimanded him severely, ridiculed the Reasons he alledged, condemned him to make a pecuniary Recompence to the Family of the Deceased, and ordered the *Persian* to be executed who committed the Murder.

His Death.

This Prince's Life was too short for the Happiness and Glory of *Persia*; for he died in 1666, at about thirty-eight Years of Age.

Mirza-
Sephi, his
eldest Son,
elected by
the Gran-
dees, and
takes the
Name of
Soliman.

He left two Sons. *Sephi Mirza*, the eldest was twenty Years old; and *Hamzeh-Mirza*, the youngest, only eight Years. As he did not nominate either for his Successor, the Ministers and Generals supplied that Defect and elected *Sephi Mirza*, who afterward changed his Name for that of *Soleiman*, or *Soliman*.

Thi

This new King had none of his Father's good Qualities. He committed such enormous Cruelties, that one of his Lords used to say, *He never came out of his Presence without feeling his Head, to know if he had got it upon his Shoulders.* He had a prodigious Strength, and would squeeze together Goblets of Gold with his Hands, that were as thick as a Crown-piece. But this Quality, which might indeed have made an excellent Porter, was not sufficient to make a great King. His Sentiments were never proportioned to his Dignity. When those about him represented what he had to fear from the *Turks*, who, after having beat the Christians, would fall upon his Dominions, unless he kept upon his Guard, his only Answer was, "that provided they left him *Ispahan*, he did not care what became of the rest."

He lived too long for the Benefit of *Persia*, which began in his Reign to decline apace.

He died in 1694, at the Age of forty-eight, of which he had been King twenty-eight Years. He left two Sons, the eldest of whom, named *Abas*, was handsome and well made, a Lover of violent Exercises, and of every thing that related to War; the other deformed and homely, of a soft and humble Disposition, much addicted to Retirement, and spending his whole Time in reading the *Koran*.

Soliman would not decide between his two Sons, but told the Lords of his Court, that if they approv'd of an active King, who should keep them always in the Field, they would do well to elect *Mirza Abas*: But if they preferred a pacifick Monarch, their Choice must

His Character.

He dies.

Characters of his two Sons.

He nominates neither to succeed him. The Grandees chuse *Hussain*.

must fall upon *Hussein*. The Grandees, already accustomed to govern, without Difficulty fixed on the last, notwithstanding the fine Qualities, and incontestable Right the other.

He leaves the Government to his Eunuchs, who divide into two Factions.

Origin of the *Aghwans* Revolt.

The Character of *Mir-weis* one of their Chiefs. The Prince of *Georgia* succeeds him.

Hussein, naturally inclined to Indolence never concerned himself about the State, but left it to the Government of his Eunuchs. These divided themselves into two Factions distinguished by Nature, that of the *Blacks* and that of the *Whites*; committed innumerable Exactions, and put the whole Kingdom in Disorder, by the Hatred with which they pursued each other. The People groaned under the Taxes which these mutilated Slaves continually introduced, and every one wished to see this Tyranny come to an End, by what Means soever it was brought about.

Such was the Disposition of the *Persians* when the *Aghwans* began to make themselves formidable. These People were a Remnant of those antient Inhabitants of *Schirwan*, who gave *Tamerlan* so much Trouble. Expelled from their antient Seat by that Conqueror they came to inhabit about *Candahar*, at the other Extremity of *Persia*, where they lived under Tents in the Manner of the *Tartars*. One of the Chiefs among them, by Name *Mir-weis*, that is *Lord Weis*, was employed on Account of his Riches, in collecting the King's Revenue. He was polite, generous, obliging, and affable; adored by those of his own Nation. The Prince of *Georgia*, who the King of *Persia* had sent Governor of *Candahar*, reflecting, that in the present State of the Kingdom, there was every thing to fear from so turbulent a Nation as that

the *Aghwans*, with a Man of *Mir-weis's* Genius at their Head, however despicable this Nation might otherwise appear on Account of Numbers and Wealth, dispatched *Mir-weis* to *Ispahan*, on pretence of his executing there a Commission which related to the Court. The Governor, at the same Time, sent in Writing his just Apprehensions of this Man. They placed People about him, who, under pretence of keeping him Company, were to observe all his Motions. *Mir-weis*, who perhaps had never thought it possible for a private Man, like himself, to undertake any Thing against his Sovereign, began to regard Things in another Light, when he saw the Conduct of the King and his Ministers, and the Discontent of the People. In the mean time his Liberality and polite Behaviour gained him the Hearts of the Courtiers, and soon introduced him to a considerable Share of the royal Favour. He was no longer looked upon as a suspected Person, but intrusted with all the Confidence possible.

Mir-weis played his Part so well, that he was sent back into his own Country with the royal Vest, and more ample Powers than before. It was in the Year 1709 that he returned thus to *Candahar*, in a Condition that enabled him to laugh at the Prince of *Georgia's* Suspicions. He was received by his Countrymen with inexpressible Joy; and having summoned the Chief of them together, he let them into his Designs, and the Facility of putting them in Execution. As soon as he saw them come into his Sentiments, he put his Hand to the Work; drew

Sends him
to Court.

Mir-weis's Pro-
jects.

He seizes
the *Can-
dabar*, and
is declared
Prince of
it.

He im-
poses on
the Court
of *Ispahan*
concern-
ing this
Revolu-
tion.

Which
better in-
formed,
sends an
Army a-
gainst him.

together his *Aghwans* under Arms, and in the Night put the Prince, and the whole Garrison of *Candabar*, to the Sword. He then harangued his *Aghwans*, and shewed them Patents from the Doctors of *Mecca* in favour of his Projects, which he had found the Secret to obtain in a Pilgrimage he had made to that City. These Patents, or *Fetfa's* removed all their Scruples, and *Myr-weis* was upon the Spot declared Prince of *Candabar* with an absolute Power to make Peace or War.

Mir-weis knew very well that what he had done must embroil him with the Court of *Ispahan*; and not thinking himself yet strong enough to withstand the numerous Armies of the King, he wrote to his Friend at Court that the Infurrection at *Candabar* had been occasioned by the Prince of *Georgia's* Debauches, and the Extravagancies of his *Georgian* Soldiers. The Court either feigned to give credit to all he said, or actually did so; but more authentick Relations soon arrived which set the Conduct of *Mir-weis* in a clear Light. A formidable Army was then got ready, composed of *Georgians* and *Persians* to go and reduce these Rebels to Reason. *Mir-weis*, perceiving himself yet insufficient to meet so great a Force in the Field, shut himself up in *Candabar*; cut down all the Corn, Plants, and Fruits in the Neighbourhood, and brought them into the City, to take away all Means of Subsistence from the royal Army. This Project succeeded; Part of the *Persian* Army, engaged in a Country where they found no Provisions, deserted, and the Remainder was obliged to return home.

It was a long Time before the Court could recover these Losses; and while it was using all possible Means, *Mir-weis* made Incursions upon the Provinces that were next to *Candahar*, brought off a World of Booty, and so accustomed his *Aghwans* to this Way of pillaging in Parties, that they desired nothing better.

The Court was not a little at a Loss in what Manner to proceed. The Ministry was divided, the Finances exhausted, and the Troops disheartened. *Mir-weis* would have cut them out Work enough, if Death had not surpris'd him at *Candahar* in the Midst of his good Fortune, when he had full Hopes of soon arriving at something more considerable.

The *Aghwans* had so much Veneration for him, that they elected his Brother in his Place, because of his Son's Minority.

His Brother elected Prince of *Candahar* by the *Aghwans*. His Character.

The new Prince of *Candahar* was of a Temper quite opposite to that of his Brother: He had little or no Ambition; and whether that were the Reason, or whether he despair'd with a Handful of Men to withstand the whole Power of the King of *Persia*; he concluded that the best Way was to procure a Peace of that Monarch, upon solid and advantageous Terms. He opened his Mind to the most prudent of the *Aghwans*, who came into his Opinion. A Deputation was getting ready to send to *Ispahan*, to negociate this great Affair. In the mean while *Magmud*, the eldest Son of *Mir-weis*, a Youth of about sixteen, brought up amidst the Din of War, and inured to Murders and Robberies, discovered somewhat of his Uncle's Designs. He waited till Night came on, went and

He is assassinated by *Magmud*, who is declared Prince of the *Aghwans*.

assassinated the pacific Prince, and immediately founded an Alarm. The *Aghwans* assembling, *Magmud* declared what he had done, justified himself as well as possible, and told them, that if they would chuse him for their Prince, he would lead them to the very Gates of *Ispahan*. The Courage of this young Man made him admired by the Populace, and he was instantly declared Prince of the *Aghwans*.

The Court embarrassed.

The *Persian* Court, which had indolently relied upon the pacific Sentiments of *Mirweis's* Brother, heard of this Revolution with inexpressible Concern. It was in no Condition to reduce the Rebels by Force of Arms. *Candahar* was above 200 Leagues distant; and it was no easy Matter to march an Army so far. Besides, the Troops were discouraged at their not being regularly paid. On all these Accounts *Magmud* had the more Time to strengthen his Party.

The *Aghwans* divided in their Religion.

In the Neighbourhood of *Candahar* is a Province called *Hazaray*, inhabited also by *Aghwans*. These two People, tho' originally of the same Nation, were of different religious Sentiments. The *Aghwans* of *Hazaray* were *Rafi*, or *Mahometans* according to the *Persian* Rite; those of *Candahar*, *Sunni*, or *Mahometans* of the *Turkish* Institution.

Magmud undertakes to unite them.

Magmud undertook to re-unite these two Nations, who hated each other mortally. He made use first of Argument with the *Aghwans* of *Hazaray*, to bring them into Union with their Brethren: But finding them obstinate against all Reasoning, he compelled them to it by Force.

Th

This Re-union threw the Court of *Ispahan* into great Consternation. It grew sensible at last of the pressing Necessity to oppose the swelling Torrent, and resolved to send an Army to chastise the Rebels. *Sepbi-Kouli-Kan*, who had been Chief-Justice, was chose to command it. He had acquitted himself of his former Office with an Integrity that drew on him the Esteem of all Men; but for this of General, he refused to accept it. They made use of a Stratagem to force his Compliance: They offered it to his Son, a Youth of only nineteen Years old, who having accepted the Honour, *Sepbi-Kouli-Kan* thought it his Duty to bear him Company, to assist him at least with his Counsels.

Sends an Army against the Rebels, and chuses *Sepbi-Kouli-Kan* to command it.

Magmud, informed of the Measures that were taken against him, thought it not prudent to expect the Enemies Army in *Candahar*. He knew it consisted of only 16,000 Men; and tho' those were all select Soldiers, he apprehended nothing from such a Number. The two Armies soon met, and the young *Persian* General lost his Life in this his first Engagement. His Father no sooner heard the melancholy News, but he desperately threw himself into the thickest of the Battle, and there fell.

The Court had been so used to Disgraces, that it was not much alarmed at this. The chief Difficulty lay in the Choice of another General. The *Athemadoulet* offered his Services; but they were rejected, upon a Representation to the King, how dangerous it was to give the Command of his Army to a Man of so great Credit. He proposed his Brother-in-Law, *Lust-Ali-Kan*, who was

accepted; a Man of much Spirit, and who had a Genius equal to the greatest Things. He begun his Command with defeating the *Aghwans*, obliging them to raise the Siege of *Kirman*, and prepared himself to besiege *Candabar*, when the Eunuchs and Grandees, jealous of his Glory, prevailed on the King to have him arrested, and got his Brother, the *Athemadoulet*, deprived of Sight. The Army, enraged to see a General thus disgraced, who alone was able to restore the Affairs of the Kingdom, to a Man disbanded of their own accord. From that Moment the Affairs of *Hussein* grew every Day worse and worse. *Magmud*, who had now nothing more to fear from the Wisdom and Valour of *Lust-Ali-Kan*, re-appeared in the Field, and even dared to lay Siege to *Ispahan*, which he took more thro' the Jealousies and Divisions of the King's Ministers, than by his own Strength.

Schah Hussein resigns the Throne of *Persia* to the Rebel *Magmud*.

The *Aghwans* so closely beleaguered this Capital, that a general Famine was soon felt there: And the unhappy *Schah Hussein*, beholding the Misery of his People, resolved to surrender up his Throne to *Magmud*. With this View he left *Ispahan*, and went to the Rebel at *Ferhabad*, after procuring a *Safeguard* for himself and Children. *Magmud* received him with the Air of a Conqueror; but after the Ceremony of Abdication was over, he affected to shew him all Manner of Respect.

Mir-Magmud, now King of *Persia*, sent a Detachment from his Army to go and take Possession of *Ispahan*. He afterwards entered it himself in Triumph, and took Possession

of

of the Royal Palace. Provisions from that Time began to flow into the Capital in such Abundance, that the same Measure of Flour, which during the Siege was sold for 100 Crowns, might have been bought for one. Peace and Plenty visibly revived throughout the Kingdom. The new King begun his Reign with the Punishment of those who had been Traitors to his Predecessor. His Administration at first was very mild: But some Months after, reflecting that tho' he was Master of the old King, and the rest of the Royal Family, Prince *Thamas*, a Son of the deposed Monarch, was yet wanting, he cast about him how to secure the young Prince, who was then busy at *Casbin*, in the Celebration of his Nuptials. *Magmud* sent thither 8000 select Men, under the Conduct of a General in whom he had great Confidence. At the Approach of these Forces, *Thamas* retired with Precipitation; and the Inhabitants of *Casbin*, destitute of all Succour, received *Magmud's* Troops into their City: But the General going about to plunder the Citizens, they desperately took Arms, and killed above 4000 *Aghwans*. The rest fled, and so many of them retired towards *Candahar*, that not 1000 returned to *Ispahan*. This was at the Beginning of the Year 1723. If *Thamas* had then been at the Head of any considerable Force, he might have greatly distressed the Usurper; but, unhappily, he was not in a Condition for any Enterprize.

Magmud
attempts
to secure
Prince
Thamas.

Magmud had Time enough to look about him: The Affair at *Casbin* gave him to understand what he had to fear even in his Capital, and this Reflection made him cruel.

His Cru-
elties.

He

He caused a general Massacre of the Nobility and their Children, and of the principal Citizens. Three Thousand of the old King's Guards, who had sworn Allegiance to *Magmud*, were put to the Sword in one Day by the Tyrant's Order; who thinking himself not yet safe, dispersed the rest of the Inhabitants of *Ispahan* into the remote Parts of the Kingdom, and re-peopled the City with Strangers of all Countries.

Prince *Thamas* in the mean Time had retired to *Tauris*, and was there acknowledged King of *Persia*. His Authority did not extend beyond the District of that City, but then he had an Army of brave Soldiers, all hearty and resolute. He concluded that the *Aghwans* would not suddenly be in a Condition to drive him from this Post; and in Fact *Magmud* was too much weakened, by the Losses he had lately sustained against the *Arabs*, with whom he had been engaged in a destructive War. But while the Prince thus imagined himself secure, the *Turks*, who had just then reduced the whole Province of *Georgia*, advanced towards *Tauris*, with a Design to penetrate into *Persia* by the Taking of that City. *Thamas* had recourse to the *Armenians* of the Mountains, who sent him a Supply of good Troops; and with this Reinforcement he met the *Turks*, gave them Battle, and won a most signal Victory. Twenty Thousand *Turks* lay dead on the Field; the rest were routed, and all their Baggage fell into the Hands of the Victor.

Mean while the Usurper *Magmud* was returned from the Siege of *Yezd*, which he had been obliged to raise, after losing a Multitude

tude of Men. This Disgrace, tho' a very common one in the Course of War, had such surprising Effects on *Magmud's* Mind, that he lost his Appetite, and soon after fell into a Delirium. What completely disordered his Brain, was the Escape of *Mirza-Sepi*, *Schah Hussein's* eldest Son, who having found means to get out of the *Haram*, fled into the Province of *Bachtiaci*. The Usurper, no more himself after this News, caused above 100 Princes of the Royal Family to be butchered in *Ispahan*; ordered three venerable old Men, the Uncles of *Schah Hussein*, to be brought into his Apartment, and hew'd them in Pieces with his own Sabre: In short, he was like a wild Beast, and in the Fits of his Distemper would even lay violent Hands on his best Friends. The Loss of his Senses was followed by a Palsy, and the Rotting-away of his Limbs.

The *Aghwans*, seeing they had no more to hope from *Magmud*, elected *Aszraf*, or *Eschref*, according to the *English* Pronunciation, to be their Chief. He was Son of that Brother of *Mir-weis*, whom *Magmud* had assassinated, and consequently *Magmud's* Cousin-German. They took him from a Dungeon to place him on the Throne, and he soon answered the Idea which People had conceived of him. When he saw himself raised to the supreme Dignity, his first Care was to punish his Father's Murderers. His Orders were executed, and *Magmud*, who then languished under a doleful Distemper, fell a Victim to his Vengeance. *Magmud* was but 26 Years old. His Head was carried to the Usurper, who soon gave other Marks

Magmud's Mind, and afterwards his Body, disordered by Crosses.

The *Aghwans* elect another Chief.

The Per-
fidy of *Ef-
chref*,
Magmud's
Successor

Marks of his Cruelty and Infincerity. He wrote to Prince *Thamas*, that if he would come to a certain Place without Guards, he would meet him in the same Manner, that they might agree together on Terms of Accommodation. *Thamas* went towards the Rendezvous with the utmost Confidence, and without Attendants: But happily he heard on the Road, that the perfidious *Efchref* had such a Multitude in his Train, as might well pass for an Army; which made him instantly turn back to join his Forces.

The *Muscovites* and
Turks take
Advanta-
ges of the
Troubles
in *Persia*.

The Kingdom of *Persia* was in too great an Agitation for her Neighbours to look quietly on. They took Advantage of these Convulsions; the *Muscovites* by seizing on all the Western Coasts of the *Caspian Sea*; and the *Turks* by invading it with three Armies, in three different Places. These latter took *Erevan* by Assault, got Possession of *Tauris*, and then ventured to march towards *Ispahan*. *Achmet*, Bassa of *Bagdat*, advanced even into the *Hurmavat*, within three Days Journey of that Capital. He obliged the *Bachtylians*, who live in Tents, to retire into the Mountains with their Families and Cattle. The *Turks* were obliged to pass thro' the narrow Defiles of these Mountains, from which it was no easy Matter to force the *Bachtylians*. He was deliberating what Step to take, when News came that the *Arabians* were making Incursions to the very Gates of *Bagdat*; upon which he instantly abandoned his Design against *Ispahan*, to go and repulse those Outlaws. *Efchref*, delivered from the Terrors of a Siege, turned his whole Thoughts to the securing himself on

on the Throne. He could have been very *Eschref* glad of an Accommodation with Prince *Thamas* ; but after having forfeited his Faith to that Prince, there was no Room for new Overtures. He thought it his Business then to make Peace with the *Turk*, that he might more easily subdue the Prince ; and with that View he sent an Officer of his Army to *Constantinople*, in the Quality of Ambassador. As this Officer was a Soldier of Fortune, very unfit for such a Negotiation, one *Emanuel Cheriman* an *Armenian*, the Head of the *Cheriman* Family, which was the richest and most considerable in all *Zulpha*, was joined with him in this Commission.

The Ambassador arrived at *Constantinople* on the 18th of *January* 1726. He was admitted to an Audience of the Grand Vizir, in Spite of all the Efforts of the *Russian* Ambassador to prevent it. The *Ottoman* Prime Minister received him at first in a favourable Manner ; but the Ambassador beginning his Harangue with saying, *The Grand Sophi my Master*, the Vizir, who would not treat upon such Terms, as if between Equal and Equal, broke off the Conference, and all the Address of the *Persian* could never obtain another Audience. Why he did not succeed.

Hitherto there had never been any open Rupture between the *Turks* and the *Agbwans* ; but from this Time they looked on each other as Enemies. The *Porte* gave Orders for a considerable Re-inforcement to march into *Persia*, where nothing less than the Taking of *Ispahan* was proposed. *Eschref*, informed of the Intentions of the *Turks*, made such a Desolation

lation in the Neighbourhood round about, that he utterly destroyed all Means of Subsistence. The *Turks* received two or three Shocks on the Neck of one another, and at last were obliged to retire into *Georgia*, to recruit their shattered Forces.

The *Ottoman* Court talks in a lower Strain.

The *Ottoman* Court now talked no longer in the same haughty Tone: She gave *Eschref* to understand, that she was not averse to a Treaty of Peace, if, to save the Sultan's Honour, he would make the first Propositions. *Eschref* did not think it worth while to dispute about Punctilios; he complied with what was required of him, and in return obtained an advantageous Peace, at least as much so as his Affairs could give him Room to expect.

Eschref has another Enemy to fear.

Eschref now thought himself fully established on the Throne of *Persia*; but found he was widely mistaken. There was at *Candahar* one of the Sons* of *Magnud*, who after the Death of his Father had been elected Prince of that Place, and of the Nation of *Aghwans*. He bore with Impatience the Fortune of *Eschref*; made Preparations against him and as soon as he saw himself in a Condition to

* The Author speaks of a Brother of *Magnud* soon after, who was Prince of *Candahar*: It must be the same Brother he means here; for *Magnud*, who died at twenty-six Years of Age, could not leave a Son to make such a Figure just after his Decease. The Hurry of the Press seems to have occasioned several such little Mistakes in the *French*, some of which we have corrected without mentioning them.

attack him, began his March to dispute with him the Crown of *Persia*. He had at first some Success; but was soon obliged to return back to *Candabar*.

The Party of Prince *Thamas* now strengthened every Day. A Journey which he had taken into *Indostan*, and the Alliance he had contracted with the Mogul, had helped to re-establish his Affairs. And to complete his good Fortune, the Prince of *Candabar*, despairing ever to drive *Eschref* from the Throne, and chusing rather that the Crown should return to the lawful Claimant, than continue on the Usurper's Head, made an Accommodation with Prince *Thamas*, and served him ever after like a good and faithful Vassal. But what chiefly contributed to place this Prince upon the Throne of his Ancestors, was the surprising Valour and consummate Prudence of THAMAS KOULI KAN, the Man whose Name has been so loudly resounded, and whose History I have undertaken to write. Before I treat particularly of his Person and Actions, I must add a Word or two more of the *Persians*.

The *Aghwans*, being Masters of the Capital and other principal Cities of the Kingdom, had reversed all the Ranks that were established among the seven Nations who make up the Inhabitants of modern *Persia*. These Ranks are so ordered, that every one of an inferior Nation is obliged to pay his Respects to one of a superior, where-ever he meets him. The Ceremony consists in the Inferior's making a full Stop, with his Arms across, as if he waited for the Orders of his Superior; who, by saying *Selâm Elëik*, seems

to permit him to continue his Way. Every one who is deficient, either in this, or any other Point of Formality, to one of a superior Degree, is punishable according to the Rigour of the Laws.

By an Edict published by the *Aghwans* at *Ispahan*, and thro' all the Kingdom, the Ranks had been regulated in the following Manner.

Regulation of Ranks among the several Nations in *Persia*.

1. The *Aghwans*, as Conquerors of the Country. 2. The *Armenians*, who are dispersed in great Numbers all over the Kingdom. 3. The *Dergesins*, whom one of *Magmud's* Generals brought from one of the Extremities of *Persia* to people the Capital. They are of the Sect of *Sunni*, like the *Turks* and *Aghwans*. 4. The *Multani*, or *Multoni*, originally sprung from *Multan* in *India*. They are the greatest Merchants of *Ispahan*; *Banians* by Religion; very rich, and great Usurers. 5. The *Guebres*, or *Gaurs*, descended from the antient *Persians*, who to this Day adore Fire, and are the mortal Enemies of the modern *Persians*. *Schah-Soliman* had begun to compel them to live like *Mahometans*, and *Schah-Husseïn* had used them yet more rigorously. This was the Source of their Hatred. The *Aghwans* restored them to their antient Liberty. 6. The *Jews*. 7. The natural *Persians*. Such was the Order which the *Aghwans* thought fit to establish.

Let us now return to THAMAS KOULI KAN.

Many Nations having adopted this extraordinary Man, it would be difficult to decide what was his native Country. Sometimes he has passed for a *Swiss*, at others for a *Hollander*.

lander, an *Englishman*, a *Frenchman*, a *Benedictine* stripped of his Hablit. I am sorry I cannot give my Reader an infallible Decifion on fo controverted a Point : But, to make him fome amends, I will here insert a Letter written on Account of a *German* Narrative, published by an Author who has thought fit to conceal his Name.

S I R,

“ IT is with Pleasure that I remember your Letter Goodness, in having communicated to me so many curious Remarks that you had ing the made upon the People of the East, in your Origin of Travels thro’ *Asia*, and during your Abode *Kouli Kan*. in *Africa*. I think it my Duty, in Return, to send you some Anecdotes concerning the famous *Kouli-Kan*. I have just extracted them from a Relation published lately in *Germany*, by an Author who has not given us his Name ; but who plainly enough insinuates that he was charged with many important Negotiations, as well in *Persia* as in *Tartary* ; and on that Account he seems to deserve a much greater Share of Credit in what he says of the Extraction of this great General, than any Thing that has been published on that Head, without Foundation, in *France*, *England*, or *Holland*.

It is about thirteen Years ago, that *Thamas Causoli Kan* (for so it is that his Name is written and pronounced in all the Country) began to make himself known in *Persia*, tho’ he had resided in that Kingdom a long Time before. He had passed thro’ all the Degrees of a Soldier, and his Valour had already advanced him to the Post of a Captain, before

he engaged in the Interest of *Schah-Thamas* at a Time when that Prince, to withdraw himself from the Power of the Rebel *Mirweis*, and afterwards from that of *Eschref*, had taken Refuge at *Ardewil*.

The unfortunate *Sophi* well knew the great Abilities of *Causoli-Kan*, and believed he could do nothing better, than give him, with the greatest Confidence, the Command of his Army. It was evident from the Consequence that this Prince was not deceived; since the new General, with a select Body of Troops, entirely defeated the numerous Army of the Rebel *Eschref*, whom he took Prisoner and beheaded, after having put out his Eyes: a Punishment which that Usurper had but too much deserved, for his criminal Boldness, and unheard-of Barbarities. After so distinguished a Victory, *Causoli-Kan* conducted *Schah-Thamas* in Triumph to *Ispahan*, and re-established him upon the Throne of his Ancestors, about eight Years ago. The People, on this Occasion, gave extraordinary Signals of Joy. The Name of *Causoli-Kan* resounded on every Side, and was by so much the more grateful to the Populace, as it signifies in the *Persian* Language *Prince Deliverer*. The *Sophi* had also honoured him with his own Name of *Thamas*. Thus was the Fame of this great General repeated every where, and always accompanied with a thousand and thousand Benedictions. But in order firmly to establish the Crown upon the Head of his Sovereign, he was yet to engage in very great Enterprizes.

The grand Point was to extinguish every Seed of Rebellion, especially in the Province

of *Candahar*, whence sprung the Usurpers *Mir-weis* and *Eschref*, and where still remained great Numbers of their Relations, and chief Accomplices. It was necessary to re-conquer the Province of *Surat* from the Grand Mogul, who had become Master of it during the Troubles, and who had supported the Usurpers in their Revolt; to oppose the Progress of the *Turks* and other neighbouring Powers, who, in Emulation of one another, had made Acquisitions upon this desolate Kingdom of whatever was for their Advantage.

Causoli-Kan took the two first Expeditions on himself, and left the third to the Sophi. Victory followed the Steps of this gallant General. The Province of *Candahar* was soon compelled to return to the Sophi's Obedience, and the Grand Mogul was obliged to restore all that he had taken.

After having issued the necessary Orders for the Security of the Countries he had newly recovered, his whole Thoughts were bent on succouring the Sophi, whom he supposed to be deeply engaged with the *Turks*. But how great was *Causoli-Kan's* Surprise, when he came near *Ispahan*, to hear that *Schah-Thamas* had just concluded a Peace with the *Porte*, the most ignominious that could be imagined; and that this effeminate Prince, without even having deign'd to go out of his Pavilion, or take any Care of his Affairs, had passed all this Time in his Harem, employ'd, or rather besieged, by Women only! The brave General, afflicted in the most sensible Manner, broke thro' the Laws of the Country, entering the Capital with an armed Force,

Force, and penetrating even to the Palace where the Sophi sought to hide himself in vain. His own Slaves laid hold of him, and brought him to *Causoli-Kan*, who loaded him with the most bitter Reproaches. *Go* said he, *weak and effeminate Prince, go and learn the Art of reigning! For my Part, will never put up with a Peace so dishonourable, and so disadvantageous to thee and th Empire.* At the same Time he ordered the Sophi to be conducted, under a numerous Guard, to the Fortrefs of *Casbin*, the antien Residence of the *Schahs*, and there to be shut up in an inaccessible Tower.

From that Day *Causoli-Kan* took the Name of Generalissimo, and renewed the War against the *Turks* with more Vigour than ever.

You know too well, Sir, the Success of this War, for me to follow my Author further in the Relation he gives of it. Besides it is a Rule with me not to encroach upon the Rights of Messieurs the Journalists. They have taken Care enough to inform the World, that *Causoli-Kan*, dreading the Consequence of a new League to replace *Schah Thomas* on the Throne, had ordered his Eyes to be put out in Prison, and placed the Crown upon the Head of his Infant-Son. But the following Particulars relate to the Origin of this Generalissimo, and will certainly appear to you quite new.

Our Traveller in many Places cites the Authority of one *Anthony Christedel*, a famous Merchant of *Ispahan*, who about six or seven Years ago made a Voyage into *Holland* and the *Low Countries*.

Th

The better to clear up this Point (it is the Author who speaks) of the Origin of *Causoli Kan*, I will repeat a Fact here that *Christedel* has related to me, and affirmed more than once. Passing thro' a little City in *Brabant*, called in *French* *Tirlemont*, and in *Flemish* *Tbienen*, the Burgomaster of the Place required to see his Passports; and having discovered that he was of *Ispahan*, enquired of him if he did not know the great *Persian* General, and what Countryman he was said to be? *Christedel* answered, that he had often had the Honour to see *Causoli-Kan*, and that it was whispered in *Persia* that he was a Native of *Brabant*. The Burgomaster assured him the Rumour was true, for he was their very Townsman at *Tirlemont*, and had a Sister now living there, who might easily be spoke with, her House being but a few Doors off. *Christedel* was very earnest to be brought into her Presence; but was not a little astonished to find only a mean Woman, with two Children, and very indifferently lodged. Her Husband was not at home. *Christedel* enquired, if she had nothing to send to her Brother, who was now such a great Lord: To which she answered smartly, that she did not want her Brother, nor her Brother her.

Christedel could never tell me this Woman's Family Name; and upon my often reproaching him for neglecting to enquire it, he used to tell me, that this could have done him no Service; because he should not have been such a Madman, as to have mentioned an Origin in *Persia* so disproportioned to the Quality of Generalissimo and Regent of the King-

Kingdom. He added, that he had more regard for his Head, than ever to speak of this Discovery to any Person in whom he had less Confidence than in me.

This Merchant, as well as many other People whom I have examined at *Ispahan* and elsewhere, were ignorant what Name he went by before the People gave him that of *Causoli-Kan*. It was just the same with regard to his Religion, which no body could describe to me. In Appearance he is of the reigning Faith, a *Mahometan* of the Sect of *Ali*; but this is looked upon to be for Form's Sake only. Some of his Officers who live in great Intimacy with him, assured me that he was not so much as circumcised. Most of the *Persians* believe him to be still a Christian in his Heart, and the more because he cherishes those of that Religion with peculiar Tenderneſs, giving equal Permission both to Catholics and Protestants to build as many Churches as they please for those of their own Communion, and taking them all under his Protection without Distinction. The *Jews*, and all the *European* in general, of what Nation or Sect soever have also full Liberty in *Persia* both of Conscience and Commerce.

Christedel related to me another Particular which I must not here omit. This Merchant, with four others, being just returned to *Ispahan*, about three Years ago, from a Voyage they had made to *Batavia* and *Holland*, *Causoli Kan* had them brought before him, and questioned them in *French* and *Dutch* concerning abundance of Things relating to Commerce. In particular he go
In

Information of the Price of the chief Commodities, the Profit that might be made on them, and the Custom-house Rates that were paid in every Country thro' which they were carried. He seemed surpris'd, that Nations who could bring into *Persia* all the Commodities of their own Countries, would not allow the same Liberty with regard to the Goods and Merchants of *Persia*. He gave them to understand, that after he had established Peace with the neighbouring Powers, and Tranquility in the Provinces at Home, he would promote the Flourishing of Arts and Sciences, and more especially of Commerce.

Such is the Idea, Sir, which this Traveller of Distinction gives us of *Causoli Kan*, that Deliverer of *Persia*, that Hero of *Asia*, that consummate General, before whose Prudence and Valour two Usurpers of the *Persian* Throne have already fallen, as well as the Power of the Great Mogul, the *Turk*, and other neighbouring Nations; that Conqueror, in a Word, who seems to imitate *Tamerlan* in what he had extraordinary and laudable, without any of his ill Qualities. Like that *Tartar* Emperor, *Causoli Kan* has risen by his own Merit, from the meanest Extraction to supreme Command. Like him, he is become the Terror of all the neighbouring States. But the *Persian* General hath hitherto contented himself with re-uniting to the Dominions of the *Sophi* what had been dismembered from them, without suffering his Ambition to lead him beyond the antient Limits of the Kingdom.

Causoli Kan has never sullied his Exploit by such Acts of Cruelty as *Tamerlan* is reproached with: But there is one Particular that elevates the *Persian* General infinitely above *Tamerlan*, and perhaps above all the Generals who ever were in the same Circumstances as himself*; I mean, that he might, and may at this Time, ascend the Throne with Impunity, and yet has never discovered that he has had the least Temptation that Way.

If I can discover any other Particulars of this Generalissimo, so worthy of being personally known, I will not fail to communicate them out of Hand."

I am, Sir, &c

Some Persons will not readily give Credit to an anonymous Letter, but look upon *Christedel's* Negligence, in not enquiring the Name of *Kouli Kan's* Sister, as a Mark of Imposture, without regarding the Reason he brings in his own Excuse. For my own part, I cannot warrant the Truth of a Fact that hardly seems to be well established. But what follows I had from a Person of Credit, who lately passed through *Tirlemont*. He assured me that he was told there by People of good Figure, that *Kouli Kan* was a native of that City; that in his Youth he had been a little extravagant, and having demanded Money one Day of his Brother, who was

* This Panegyric has no longer any Foundation, the *Persian* General having now mounted the Throne, as every one knows, and as I shall relate in the Sequel of this History.

Parson of a Parish a little way out of Town, the Brother refused him ; that *Kouli Kan*, in revenge, followed him into the Church with a Cudgel, and beat him most severely ; that he afterwards made his Escape into *Holland*, from whence he got to *Smyrna*, and thence into *Persia*.

The Gentleman added, that they offered to conduct him also to the *Persian* General's Sister ; but that having no Time to stay, he went forwards without seeing her, or being informed what was her Name.

I leave the Reader in full Liberty to pass what Judgment he pleases on these Facts ; but must remark in the mean Time, that upon well considering the Matter, the Letter I have inserted seems to me a Forgery, written by some *Brabanter*. It may easily be detected by the Style*, notwithstanding the Pains I have taken to give it a little better Turn. Moreover our Author, or his Traveller of Distinction, is mistaken when he says that *Surat* did belong to *Persia*. Nor is he more exact in his History than in his Geography, but sometimes confounds *Mir-weis* with *Magnud*, and speaks of *Kouli Kan* as if he had made War on *Mir-weis*, which is absolutely false. I am very apt to think that the *Europeans*, jealous of the *Orientals*, have invented all these Fables about *Kouli Kan*, in order to rob them of the Honour of having so great Warrior born among them.

* This Peculiarity of Stile is partly lost in the Translation.

What the more persuades me of this, is a Letter written from *Constantinople* by the Marquis de Villeneuve, Ambassador of France, who certainly ought to have better Information than the Burgomaster and Citizens of *Tirlemont*.

Extract of a Letter from the Marquis de Villeneuve at Constantinople, concerning Thamas Kouli Kan. Dated September 8, 1736.

Extract of
a Letter
from the
French
Ambassa-
dor at
*Constanti-
nople*.

“**T**HAMAS Kouli-Kan was born in a Village called *Afebis*, in the Province of *Chorasan*, about four or five Leagues distant from *Mached*, famous for the Sepulchre of *Iman Bioa*. His Father was a Shepherd, and the Son in his Youth followed the same Occupation. He was soon weary, however, of that humble Life. His great Talents, and boundless Ambition, made him think of advancing himself to somewhat above what his Birth gave him room to expect. He stole 700 Sheep from his Father, which he sold at *Mached*; and with the Money he made of them, got together several lawless Fellows, put himself at their Head and began to rob the Caravans. Growing by this Method immensely rich, he continued his Robberies for seven Years successively, till the Taking of *Ispahan* by the *Aghwans*.

Schah Hussein, during the Siege of the Place, had sent Prince *Thamas* his Son into the Province of *Mazanderan*, to raise Forces, in order either to deliver the Father from the Danger which threatened him, or to revenge

venge the Cause of the whole Royal Family. *Kouli Kan* at that Time went by the Name of *Nadir Kuli*. He had under his Command about 6000 of the most resolute Fellows in the World, all well armed, well disciplined, and practised to Slaughter. With this Body he appeared before Prince *Thamas*, who was then at *Asterabad* in the *Tabristan*, upon the *Caspian Sea*; offered him his Service, and swore, upon the Forfeiture of his Head, that he would re-establish him upon the Throne of his Ancestors, and revenge him on the *Agh-wans*, if he would only promise him, in recompense, to make him his Prime Vizir. Prince *Thamas*, pleased with so unexpected a Supply, for which he had such great Occasion, accepted *Nadir Kuli's* Offer, embraced him with much Affection, and gave him the Name of *Thamas*, as a Token that he would consider him hereafter as his other self. Our General then abandoned his Name of *Nadir*, and assumed that of *Thamas Kouli Kan*."

Kuli in *Persia* signifies *Slave*, and all the great *Persian* Lords hold it a peculiar Honour to bear this Title, to intimate that they are Slaves to the King, always ready to sacrifice their Lives and Fortunes in his Service. *Kan* signifies *Prince*, or *Chief* of some Army, City, or Province.

Significa-
tion of the
Word
Kuli.

And *Kan*

It may seem surprising, that Prince *Thamas* so readily accepted the Services of a Shepherd, and a Captain of Thieves. But if we consider the Extremity to which that Prince was reduced, we shall find nothing extraor-

Remarks
on the
Quality of
a Captain
of
Thieves.

dinary in his making use of all possible Means to advance his Affairs. Besides, in a large Kingdom, like that of *Persia*, agitated as it was at that Time, it is hardly known who is a Shepherd and who is a Gentleman. In all Appearance, *Kouli Kan's* Father was none of your miserable Sort of Shepherds, such as we see in *Europe*: And as to the Quality of Captain of Thieves, how many Princes are publick Robbers of their own Subjects? Do we not read in the History of *Germany*, that during the long *Interregnum* which preceded the Election of *Rodolph I.* Count of *Habsburg*, the greatest Part of the Princes and Counts of the Empire were at the Head of a prodigious Gang of Thieves, with whom they committed a thousand Murders and Robberies, so that it was impossible to travel with Safety in any Part of the Empire; and that these illustrious Leaders of Banditti were afterwards promoted to be Generals of Armies, according to the Degree of Merit which they had acquired in their former Occupation of Thieving?

Kouli Kan
gains the
Favour of
Prince
Thamas.

As for *Kouli Kan*, he soon gained the Favour of Prince *Thamas*, and the Hearts of the Soldiers. His Vigilance, Penetration, and Intrepidity, soon testified his Capacity for the greatest Enterprises. I have already said, that after the Death of *Magnud Eschref* got Possession of the Crown of *Persia*. That Usurper made an Alliance with *Russia*, by the Mediation of several Places on the *Caspian-Sea*, which he gave up to that Power. He thought also to secure the *Ottoman Porte*, that he might turn his whole

whole Strength against Prince *Thamas*. The Prince, on his Part, made a Treaty with the Great Mogul, and received under his Obedience the Prince of *Candabar*, Brother of the Traitor *Magmud*. This Prince, emulous of *Eschref's* Greatness, meant no more at first than by joining Prince *Thamas*, whom I shall for the future call *Schah*, to drive the Usurper from the Throne, which he hoped afterwards to obtain for himself, either by Force or Fraud: But when he saw that the *Schah's* Affairs went on successfully, he changed his Battery, and behaved afterwards like a faithful Vassal.

Schah Thamas having consulted *Kouli Kan* upon their first Expedition, that General was of Opinion that they ought to besiege *Schiras*, in order to shut up *Ispahan*. Upon which the Army marched towards *Bender-Abas*, to cut off the Communication which *Eschref* had with that Place. The Troops were divided into two Bodies; one of which, under *Schah Thamas* himself, marched towards *Schiras* to form the Siege; the other, under the Command of *Thamas Kouli Kan*, took another Route, to observe the Motions of *Seydal* General of the *Aghwans*, who with a considerable Body of Troops was encamped between *Ispahan* and *Schiras*, to cover the first of those Places, and at the same Time to be in Readiness to march to the Relief of the other. *Kouli Kan* advanced with such Expedition, that he came up with *Seydal* before that General had heard of any Design being formed against *Schiras*. The Proximity of the two Armies gave Rise to several petty

The Siege
of *Schiras*.

Skirmishes, in which *Kouli Kan's* Troops had always the Advantage.

Mean while the News of the Siege of *Schiras* came to *Eschref*, who learned from thence what he had to fear for his Capital. He lost no Time, but got together all the Troops he could, and leaving a Garison of 8000 Men in *Ispahan*, set out with the rest to join General *Seydal*, and march with him to the Relief of *Schiras*. *Kouli Kan*, upon the Report that *Eschref* had left *Ispahan*, reflected that if he continued any longer in his present Post, he should infallibly be encompassed by the two Armies, one of which only was more numerous than his. This obliged him to retire towards *Schiras*, to rejoin *Schah Thamas*. No sooner was he arrived, but he persuaded that Prince to raise the Siege, and march directly to give *Eschref* Battle. This Resolution being approved by all the Generals, the royal Army decamped, and went in quest of the Rebels, with whom they soon came up. Both Armies at first began to secure their Posts and entrench, and they were some Time in Sight of each other, before anything was undertaken on either Side. *Kouli Kan* was of Opinion, that as they had fewer Troops than the Rebels, they ought to make good the Advantage of Ground.

Battle between the
Aghwans
and *Persians*.

At four Days End *Eschref* came out of his Lines, to fall on Prince *Thamas*. The Attack was made in five different Places, with great Fury; but the *Aghwans* were every where repulsed, three several Times. *Eschref*, seeing this, resolved to make a last Effort, and began the Battle with more Bravery than before. The Wing led by the Usurper was opposed