



THAMAS KOULI-KAN, at Present called
NADIR SHAH, Emperor or Sophi of PERSIA,
Conqueror of Indostan, &c. Aged 56 Years. Done
from an Original Drawing now in y^e Possession of
Prince Cantemir y^e Russian Ambassador at Paris.

par J. Boudard à Paris 1741.
auct^r

4471.1142.17



11



THE
COMPLEAT HISTORY
OF

Thamas Kouli Kan,

(Afterwards SCHAH NADIR)

Late Sovereign of PERSIA.

In Two Parts.

PART I. Containing a Description of the Persian Empire; an Account of the Religion and Manners of the Persians; a Chronological Abridgement of their History, including the Lives and Reigns of Cyrus and his Descendants, the Achaemenides, the Seleucids, the Parthians, and the Sassanids, down to the late Revolution; a particular Account of the Afghans, and their Leaders Mir-Wais, Adam-Bek, and Roshan, to their total Reduction by Kouli Kan; the Origin and Rise of this Commander, his Wars with the Rebels and the Turks, and his artful Assumption of the Crown.

PART II. Containing a Description of the Empire of Indostan, and a Character of the Indians; some Account of the Great Mogul from Tamerlane down to Aulung-Cha now reigning; Grounds of Kouli Kan's Quarrel with this latter; his Invasion of the Kingdom of Cabul, and the whole Progress of his Arms till he entirely defeats, defeats, and then restores his Enemy, after having taken from him an immense Booty, obtained the Cession of Part of his Dominions, and obliged him to pay an Annual Tribute. With Copies of Letters, Edicts, Manifestos, &c. translated from the Originals under the Hand of both Monarchs.

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

To which are added,

An Appendix by the Translator, containing the History of Schah Nadir down to his Death, with the most authentick Accounts we have received of that Occurrence.

ALSO,

An Alphabetical Index; a new Map of Persia and the bordering Countries, and a fine Head of Kouli Kan, engraved at Paris from an Original, in the Possession of Prince Cantimir the Russian Embassador.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. BRINDLEY, at the Persian Arms in New Bond Street, Bookbinder and Stationer to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; JAMES HODGKINSON, being a Magistrate's Clerk, in Pall Mall; and sold also by M. COOPER in Pall Mall; and by J. COOPER in Pall Mall; and by J. COOPER in Pall Mall.



data wrong.
Mch. 27/4/02



T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
THAMAS KOULI KAN.

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

The HISTORY of

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mount Ararat is in *Armenia*, of a small *Mount* Distance from the Town of *Erivan*. The *Ararat* in *Persians* call it *Agri*, the *Arabs*, *Subalaba*, *Armenians*, and the *Armenians*, *Mesefensar*. It is become famous for being, as is pretended, the Place where *Noah's Ark* rested after the Deluge. Some believe that the Remains of it are still to be seen there. And the *Armenians*, who are the most superstitious of the *Greecian* Church, never approach this Hill without.

The HISTORY of

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

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

The Caspian Sea.

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

Euphrates.

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

Tigris.

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

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

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

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

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

Persia is not equally fruitful in all Places; Of *Persia* it contains some Deserts of a large Extent, in *Gen*. In the Province of *Manzanderan*, betwixt *ral*. *Caspia* and *Ferhabad*, whole Plains, about ten leagues long, and six or seven broad

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

The Fruitfulness of it.

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

Its Trade.

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

The King's Revenue.

of

THAMAS KOULI KAN.

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

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

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

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

Ispahan is situated in a Plain on the Banks ^{Descrip-} of the River *Senderut*. Till the Reign of ^{tion of} *Tamerlane*, it bore the Name of *Sipaban*, *Ispaban*, which was then changed into *Ispahan*. Some pretend that it is the same as *Hecatompekis*, built by the *Greeks* under *Alexander the Great*, and

The HISTORY of

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

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

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

The

THAMAS KOULI K'AN.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A most
curious
Tower.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Descrip-
tion of
Casbian.

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

Of *Sulta-
nia*.

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

Of *Fer-
abad*.

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

Of *Yezd*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Loristan.

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

Fars.

The Country of *Fars*, or the *Faristan*, was famous heretofore, under the Denomination of *Persis* or *Persia*; and is still considerable upon Account of its Fertility and Commerce: It lies towards the *Persian* Gulph. The chief Towns in it are *Schiras*, *Darabگرد*, and *Combran*.

City of
Schiras.

Schiras, one of the largest Cities of *Persia*, is built in a delightful Plain, thick set with Woods of Palm and *Cypress* Trees: The Extent of this charming Plain is twenty Leagues from

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

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

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

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

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

Laristan.

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

Lar.

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

Passagarda.

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

The

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saru.

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

Kilan.

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

Scamachia.

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

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

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

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

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

Adirbeizan, on the contrary, is one of *Adirbeizan*. the largest Provinces of this extensive Empire, being the *Media* of the Antients. Its principal Cities are *Tauris*, *Eriwan*, and *Ardebil*, or *Ardewil*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mina.

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

Chorasjan.

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

Candabar.

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

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

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

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

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

The *Tartars* of *Daghestan* are governed by Sultans, or particular Princes, who, tho' Vassals of the *Persian* Monarch, frequently laugh at his Orders, when they find them not agreeable to their Interests, or their Inclinations. These People are the greatest Thieves in the World; they prey indifferently on Friend and Enemy, and the *Persians* themselves are not secure from their Depredations. But the *Russians* lately made them pay somewhat dear for the Outrages they had committed in their Territory. The greatest Part of these *Tartars* dwell only in Tents, without any fix'd Habitation: Yet there are a few Towns and Villages in *Daghestan*,
D 2

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

Georgia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gory.

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

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

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

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

There is one Thing particular in the Isle of *Ormuz*, which can be met with nowhere else. It is a Sort of Wood so ponderous, that if you lay it on the Surface of the Water, it sinks with its own Weight, like Lead or Iron. On the contrary, there is a Kind of Wood and Stone of a singular Quality.

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

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

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

THAMAS KOULI KAN.

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

Schah-Abas the Great had a different Opinion of this Fort, from which he was desirous of driving these *Portuguese*: But a maritime Force was wanting for that Purpose, of which the Kings of *Persia* were wholly destitute. The *English*, animated by a Jealousy which is common to Rivals in Trade, removed this Difficulty by offering to assist him with their Fleet, provided his Majesty would cede to them for ever after one Moiety of the Revenues arising from the Customs paid by Ships in the *Persian* Gulph. This Proposition accepted, *Ormuz* was besieged by Sea and Land. The *Portuguese* in their Citadel defended themselves like Lions, and the Siege was long and bloody. The *Persian* Artillery reduced the City into a Heap of Rubbish, and the *English* threw so many Bombs into the Citadel, that at length it came to the Ground. On the 25th of April 1622, the *Portuguese* were obliged to surrender, their Fleet not having been able to bring them Succour. The Booty, consisting of twelve Millions of ready Money, and a World of rich Effects, was divided between the *English* and the *Persians*; but the latter had all the Artillery, no less than 365 Pieces of different Bores, most of them Brass. The Isles of *Kesem* and *Lareek*, which lie at a little Distance from *Ormuz*, were also evacuated by the *Portuguese* who had there settled. In a Word, the *Persians* have always faithfully observed their Treaty with

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

Religion
of the
Persians.

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

Their Di-
visions
with the
Turks.

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

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

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

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

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

Politicks
of the
Kings of
Persia.

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

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

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

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

*Tantum Religio potuit suadere malorum.**

* *Lucret. Lib. iii.*

E

There

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

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

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

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

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

who

who cannot suffer any other than their own.

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

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

As I have ſpoken already of the *Guebres*, or *Gaurs*, I ſhall ſay nothing of them here. There is not a Sovereign in the World more abſolute, or more reſpected by his Subjects

Their Priests believe the *Metemphychoſis*.

The Reſpect ſhewn to a King of *Persia*.

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

Character
of the *Persians*.

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

A witty
Saying of
one of
their great
Lords.

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

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

Etymology
of the
Name of
Persia.

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

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

Progress
of the
Persian
Monar-
chy.

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

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

Astyages
King of
the *Medes*.

Birth of
the *Cyrus*.

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

He is
brought
up among
Shepherds.

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

Harpagus, tho' sensible of the King's Barbarity, dissembled his Anxiety for the present: But getting together all the Money he could, he retired to *Cyrus*, related to him all the

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

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

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

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

His tragic
End.

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

be-

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

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

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

Tear:

He makes
War upon
the *Egyptians*.

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

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

• (a) Domestica Mala Lachrymis esse majora.

The *Magi*, who were the chief Men in the State, sought every where for that Adventurer, who called himself Prince *Smerdis*, and who had for some Time hid himself, to avoid the Rage of *Cambyfes*. They found at last the Place of his Retreat; and having drawn him from thence, partly by Force, and partly with his Consent, they placed him upon the Throne of *Persia*. *Cambyfes*, informed of this Revolution, levied fresh Troops in *Egypt*, to march against his rebel Subjects: But Death cut short his Expedition; for as he was going to set out, his Horse fell with him, and gave him such a terrible Shock, that his Dagger flew out of the Scabbard, and, receiving him on the Point as he came to the Ground, passed thro' his Body, upon which he instantly expired.

An Impo-
tor raised
to the *Per-
sian*
Throne.

The Death
of *Camby-
fes*.

After his Death the false *Smerdis* saw himself in peaceable Possession of the Kingdom of *Persia*; which however he did not long enjoy; for being in Bed one Night with one of his Concubines, she observed he had no Ears, which Discovery she communicated to a Confident, who spread it among the Grantees. These Noblemen, enraged at the having such a Master, conspired against and assassinated him. It was then known, that he had been a Scullion in the late King's Kitchen, and that having committed some Theft, *Cambyfes* ordered his Ears to be cut off, and banished him his Empire. His Reign was so short, that some Historians have not comprised him in the List of *Persian* Monarchs.

The Usurper being dead, and not one of the Family of *Cyrus* remaining, the Grantees elected a new King.

Darius
Hystaspis
chosen.

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

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

Xerxes his
Son suc-
ceeds him.

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

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

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

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

He makes
an unsuccessful
War upon
the *Greeks*.

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

He is assassinated.

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

Artaxerxes Longimanus succeeds him.

Darius Notus reigns with little Reputation.

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

Artaxerxes II. surnamed *Mnemon*, succeeded *Nothus*, and reigned 43 Years. His Brother *Cyrus* attempted to dethrone him, but was killed in that Battle so famous among Historians for the Retreat of the 10,000 *Greeks*, who came to his Assistance, and who, after his Death, returned Home thro' the *Persian* Empire, under the Conduct of *Xenophon*, in Spite of the Ambuscades which *Artaxerxes* had laid to intercept them.

Artaxerxes being dead, his Son *Ochus* succeeded him, and reigned 22 Years. He was a cruel and barbarous Prince. The *Egyptians* revolting in his Time, he marched against them, defeated their King *Nectanebus*, who was obliged to take refuge in *Macedonia*, caused the Ox which the *Egyptians* worshipped under the Name of *Apis* to be butchered, and obliged that miserable People to adore an *Ass*. This last God indeed was as good as the other in reality, but not according to the Reasoning of the *Egyptians*, who were not brought over to this new Worship without a great deal of Violence. *Ochus* committed also many Cruelties against his own Subjects; so that the *Persians*, not thinking themselves safe under so barbarous a Sovereign, formed several Conspiracies against his Life. At last *Bagoas*, one of the Generals of his Army, dispatched him by Poison, exposed his Flesh for a Prey to the Fowls, and converted his Bones into Knife-handles and Sword-hilts.

Arfameses, by some Authors called *Arfames*, succeeded *Ochus* his Father. He reigned but 3 Years, and died *Anno Mundi* 3614.

Darius Codomanus advanced to the Throne.

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

Dethroned by *Alexander the Great*.

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

Alexander poisoned.

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

Persia is divided.

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

Empire of the *Parthians*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Osmán succeeded to the Caliphate, and *Osmán* 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 *Grandeess* refused to acknowledge him for their Sovereign, among whom the chief were one *Ajisja*, and *Muavius* 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 *Sebeich-Adar* began to teach it, as I shall observe hereafter. The *Turks*, ever attached to the literal Sense

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.

Hussain, 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-*Hussain.*ped the Foundations of the Caliph's Power.

The Family of the *Bojites*, an unfortunate Remnant of the Race of *Darius Hystaspes*, began now to revive, and renew their ancient 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 1055. *Melecrabim* was the last of the *Bojite* Monarchs. Their first

He was deposed by the *Turcomans*, whose Chief, called *Togrul-Bec*, descended from They are
dispos-
sed by the
the *Turcomans*.

the Family of *Salgbuck*. This Family, which Genealogists call the *Salguicides*, 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 Governot 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 *Tamerlan*.

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 done, marched against him with an Army of 500,000 Warriors. That of *Bajazet*, united 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 *Greeks*: And the unhappy *Bajazet*, after having done all that could be expected from a great Commander, seeing there was no Possibility of restoring Affairs, fled for his Life in the Habit of a Soldier. But his ill Fortune 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.

He makes
War on
the *Turks*.

Takes
their Sul-
tan Priso-
ner, and
treats him
like a Dog.

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*. They *comans* ¹³
were divided into two Factions, that of the enter *Per-*
black and that of the *white Ram*. The *Fac-* ^{sia}, and are
tion of the *black Ram* was first established in divided
Persia, and supplied it with five Kings, who ^{into two}
reigned sixty-one Years, from 1408 till 1469. ^{Factions.}
The first of these Kings was called *Kara-*
Iffus, which signifies *Joseph the Black*. The
last was *Azelany*.

The Faction of the *white Ram* supplanted Accession
that of the *black*. *Usuncassan*, its Chief, of *Usun-*
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 Emperors 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*. *Usuncassan* sent to him a
magnificent Embassy, under Pretence of
felicitating him on his Success, but in reality
to demand the Restitution of *Cilicia*, and
whatever had belonged to the Empire of *Tre-*
bizonde, upon which *Usuncassan* 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 *Chris-* He makes
tendom, when the Misunderstanding between War on
these two Princes came to be known. The the *Turks*.
Power of *Mahomet II*, had spread an Alarm
over all *Europe*, and the *Venetians*, in par-
ticular,

ticular, were in Great Consternation since the Taking of *Constantinople*. They wanted nothing better than to see the Sultan employed in *Asia*, lest 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 Ammunition. In 1472 the Hostilities began between the *Persians* and *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 Captives. *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 his 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 subtle 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 others Kings of the Faction of the White Ram, whose Lives had nothing remarkable enough to engage our Attention. *Alvanys*, the last reigned only eight Months, and was succeeded by *Ismael Sephi*.

The

The Family of the *Sopbi's* is so famous in the Origin of History of *Persia*, that I cannot forbear giving the Family an Account of it in this Place; more especially of the late Kings, immediate Predecessors of *Kouli Kan*, were descended from it. *Sopbi's*. Character of their Head. One *Sopbi*, or *Sepbi*, 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.

Sopbi 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 the Ties of the most lively Gratitude, of which they zealously gave Testimony, both to him and to his Posterity. *Sopbi*, 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 *Usuncassan* 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 *Trebizonde*. *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 publicly 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 *Ruslan*,
who gets
him assassi-
nated.

But how deep soever was his Dissimulation, he could not avoid the Suspicion of *Ruslan*, one of the Successors of *Usuncassan*. This Prince, frightened at the Concurrence 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 *Usuncaffan'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; The Fate two of whom, then at Years of Discretion, of his fled from the Danger that threatened them, three Sons, one into *Natolia*, the other to *Aleppo*.

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

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 the 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 pretty 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 *Marmaluc*, 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, His War seized the happy Occasion, and marched directly to *Tauris*. Scarce did his Van-guard *Alvantes* appear, but the Inhabitants threw open their and *Morat-Kan*. Gates. *Alvantes*, seeing himself abandoned by all his Subjects, reduced only to his Guards,

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 Rout 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 *Tatis*, gave him Battle, and totally routed his Army. *Morat-Kan* got off with a few of his Cavalry, and retired into the Estates *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*.

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, then 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 the 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 Generals. 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. A 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 so many Men in his Victory, and the *Janizaries* were so disheartened, that he saw himself obliged to retire with Precipitation, and leave behind him Part of his Cannon.

Proof of
the Affec-
tion of *Is-
mael's*
Soldiers.

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

not

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 *Ann* 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, His Son *Thamas*, *Helcas*, *Bocram*, and *Sermisa*. 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 *Affyria* and *Mesopotamia*, with the City of *Babylon*; *Bocram* had *Media*, *Georgia*, and *Albania*; and *Sermisa* had *Parthia*, or the Province of *Ghorasan*: But all these Estates were soon re-united 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 *Soliman's* Pleasures, he had yet a warlike Inclination, but wanted a Resolution to engage first in War at the pursuit of it. The *Turks* soon found him gainst Employment. *Soliman*, their Emperor at that

H

that

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 *Affyria*; took the whole Province with the City of *Babylon*; also *Mesopotamia*, *Curdistan*, and *Diarbeck*. 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 surprize 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 answer'd 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 *Betlis*, on the Left of the Lake *Van*, and found them all in 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 *Affyria* 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, when 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 flight, and above 130,000 Men lost in 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 Grand father.

His Death. He died in 1571, aged 68 Years; having nominated for his Successor in the Empire *Caidar-*

Caidar-Mirizis his third Son, then only 17 Years old. This Choice however did not seem equitable to the Grandees, who besides had no Esteem for *Caidar-Mirizis*: 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 *Ghorasan*. *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 Suspensions he had conceived of his Fidelity, had all those warlike Qualities which dazzle the Eyes of Military Men. He had distinguished himself in several Rencontres 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-Mirizis* 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 Kingdom, whither *Ismael* pursued them with

His Son
Ismael
succeeded
him.

a Body of Cavalry. The *Turks*, who had Garrisons on that Side, imagined an Excursion was designed against them. They put themselves into 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 *Petiaconcon* gave him at the Request of his Nobles.

Codabende *Ismael* II, was no sooner dead, but the *Per-*
elect *sian* 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. *Codabende* made War against the *Turks*,
 His eldest and with Advantage. He died in 1585, leav-
 Son suc- ing three Sons, of whom *Emir-Hemse*, the
 ceeds: is eldest, succeeded him. He had reigned but
 murdered a few Months, when his Brother *Ismael* as-
 by *Ismael* sassinated him, and ascended the Throne. *Is-*
 who as- *mael* had no sooner got the Reins of Go-
 cends the vernment, but he sought to get rid of *Abas*
 Throne. his third Brother. But the Governor of that
 young Prince, who foresaw his own Life de-
 pended

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

One of *Ismael's* Valet-de-Chambres, pre-^{A Valet-}vailed on by Bribes, took upon him to rid de Cham-^{them of his Master,} them of his Master, and one Day cut his ^{bre cuts} Throat as he was shaving him. The Conspi-^{his} rators, who were present at this Execution, Throat. immediately dispatched the Valet, lest he should discover the Authors of the Treason.

Abas, or *Schah-Abas*, surnamed *the Great*, Accession on account of both his long Reign, and the of *Schah* great Things he performed, succeeded his *Abas* to Brother *Ismael III*, being no more than eigh-^{the} teen Years of Age. He had very great Qua-^{Throne of} lities, and might have passed as well for a *Persia*. good and wise King, as for a great Con-
queror, if he had not been guilty of Cruelty ^{The III-} and Ingratitude towards *Murschild-Kuli-Kan* becoming his Governor, to whom he owed his Crown; of his and whom he unmercifully murdered, be-^{Reign.} cause this unhappy Man was too free with him in making Romanstrances 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.

Schah-Abas wholly gave way to his war-^{He gives} like Inclination. He formed a Design of re-^{himself up} conquering all the Provinces that *Persia* had to his war-^{lost since the Reign of Ismael I.} lost since the Reign of *Ismael I*. He began like Hu-^{mour.} with the *Usbeck Tartars*, who had fallen up-^{on the Province of Chorsan,} on the Province of *Chorsan*, of which him-^{self had been Governor in his Minority.} self had been Governor in his Minority. This
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 *Ghorasan*, which *Schab-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.

Schab-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 *Euphrates* 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 *Balsera*, 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 *Schab-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*.

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 two youngest put out, reserving *Sepbi-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 no Body. 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. *Sepbi-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

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, and 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 *Cambabar* in the East, to be taken from him.

Though
poisoned,
he does
not die of
it.

Schah-

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

Abas II, succeeded him. Though he was *Abas II*,
an only Son, he had narrowly escaped being succeeds
the Victim of his Father's Cruelty. *Schah-him*.

Sepbi 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 In-
tention 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, *Sepbi* seem- out his
ed very uneasy that he should leave no Suc- Eyes.
cessor. The Eunuch, who observed his Dis-
content, 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 *Person*, had no Room to complain His Cha-
of their new King, who governed with great racter.
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 com-
mitted the Cares of Government to his Mo-
ther, assisted by *Athematdoulé*, 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 *Sepbi* had been obliged to make a Cession of *Candabar*: 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 *Armenian*, 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.

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

He left two Sons. *Sepbi-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 *Sepbi-Mirza*, who afterwards changed his Name; for that of *Soleiman*, or *Soliman*.

This new King had none of his Father's His Character.
good Qualities. He committed such enormous Cruelties, that one of his Lords used to

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 homely 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

He dies.

Charac-
ters of his
two Sons.

He no-
minates
neither to
succeed
him.

The Gran-
dees chuse
must *Hussain*,

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

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

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.

Origin of the *Agb-wans* Revolt.

Such was the Disposition of the *Persians*, when the *Agb-wans* began to make themselves formidable. These People were a Remnant of those ancient Inhabitants of *Schirwan*, who gave *Tamerlane* so much Trouble. Expelled from their ancient 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*, whom 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 of

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

the

the *Aghwans*, with a Man of *Mir-Weis's* Genius at their Head, however despicable this nation might otherways 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.

Sends him
to Court.

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

Mir-Weis's Pro-
jects.

He seizes
Candabar, and
is declared
Prince of
it

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 *Mir-weis* was upon the Spot declared Prince of *Candabar*, with an absolute Power to make Peace or War.

He imposes on
the Court of
Ispahan concern-
ing his
Revolution.

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 Friends at Court that the Insurrection 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.

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

It

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.

Mir weis
dies.

His Bro-
ther elect-
ed Prince
of *Canda-
bar* by the
Aghwans.
His Cha-
racter.

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 was 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 negotiate 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. *Candabar* 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 *Candabar* 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 *Candabar*, *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 Arguments 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.

This

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.

Magnud, 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 *Athematdoulet* 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 *Gandahar*, when the Eunuchs and Grandees, jealous of his Glory, prevailed on the King to have him arrested, and got his Brother, the *Athemadoullet*, 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 *Hussien* 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 Hussien 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 Hussien*, 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 Safe-guard 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 *Magnud* Master of the old King, and the rest of the *attempts to* Royal Family, Prince *Thamas*, a Son of the *secure* deposed Monarch, was yet wanting, he cast *Prince* about him how to secure the young Prince, *Thamas*. who was then busy at *Casbin*, in the Celebration of his Nuptials. *Magnud* 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 *Magnud's* Troops into their City: But the General going about to plunder the Citizens, they desperately took Arms, and killed above 4000 *Aghoams*. The rest fled, and so many of them retired towards *Gandabar*, 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.

Magnud 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 held 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 *Arabians*, 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* has 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-Sepbi*, *Schab 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 *Schab 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 ever 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 *Agbwans*, 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 Cresses.

The *Agb-*
wans elect
another
Chief.

The Per-
fidy of *Ef-
ch ef.*
Magnus's
Successor.

of his Cruelty and Insincerity. 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 *Eschref* 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
Advantages 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 *E-rivan* by Assault, got Possession of *Tauris*, and then ventured to march towards *Ispahan*. *Achmet*, Bassa of *Bagdat*, advanced even into the *Hermavat*, 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. *Eschref*, delivered from the Terrors of a Siege, turned his whole Thought to the securing himself