

without foundation; to the two *Imámzádeh's* or saints tombs, and other ruins included in the annexed view (Pl. LXII), we may apply the observation made (p. 72) on some similar remains of mud-built edifices near *Isfahán*; that they appear to greater advantage on paper than in reality. Under their shade were sitting several travellers; some jokes with much laughter circulated among them, and most of the women exhibited their faces without reserve.

On the fifth we proceeded from *Kum* to *Pul-i-delác* (پل دلاک) or the "Barber's Bridge," a journey of fourteen miles and three quarters; by a road in general good, over a *Kaffah* or barren country, then dry but covered with a crust of salt and sand<sup>(25)</sup>. Near the bridge, giving its name to the *manzi* or halting place, is a small *caravanserá*; but we occupied our tents, pitched a little beyond it, as they appear in the annexed view (Pl. LXII), which I sketched on the southern bank of the river. This is, at some seasons, a considerable stream; but the water is always brackish; we saw in it, however, many fishes, and one, almost a foot long, was taken near the bridge. Water more palatable, or what the Persians call *áb-i-khúrden* (آب خوردن) water for drinking) was found in a well, nearly two miles distant; with this, although not perfectly pure, we replenished during the night our

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(<sup>25</sup>) *Kaffah* (کف) as a Persian wrote the word and explained it to me, signifies a salt desert; *sakhrá* (صحرأ) a plain without salt.

*matarrehs* or leathern vessels, hearing that at the next stage, none even so good could possibly be procured. A few *Iliúts* with their flocks were wandering near this place, which affords no habitation besides the *caravanserá*. In the front of this edifice the entrance or middle part is built with well-burnt brick ; the other walls are of stone.

The bridge derives its name from a *delác* (دلاى) or barber, at whose expense it was constructed. A tradition relates that some king or prince one day refused to avail himself of this work, however useful, because it had been founded by a person so mean ; and although the river was then running violently, being increased by mountain torrents, he rode through it on horseback, whilst many of his attendants who had plunged in after him, were overwhelmed by the stream, and perished. This bridge is strong ; well built of brick and paved with stone. Near it the banks are covered with bushes and shrubs ; they particularly abound in barberry trees, and reeds, very long, straight and beautifully tufted or feathered at the top. Among these, in the evening, Colonel D'Arcy and I traced, for two or three miles, the river's course, until warned by one of our Persian servants that this copse was a favourite haunt of wolves and lions. Although armed with double-barrel'd guns we did not prolong our walk ; several tortoises appeared on the water, and some birds of the teal and wild-duck kind. The salt desert about our camp furnished many petrified shells, and other marine pro-

ductions. We found the weather extremely sultry; Fahrenheit's Thermometer rose to 84 at one o'clock after noon.

From *Pul-i-delác* we marched on the sixth before five in the morning, and arrived at *Hawz-i-Sultán* (حوض سلطان) or the "Monarch's Reservoir," about ten, having travelled twenty miles and one quarter over a salt desert. During the first farsang we encountered some ascents and declivities; after that, we entered on the extensive *Kivír* (كویر), for so is called this, or any tract of ground, which at certain seasons from rain or snow becomes a marsh where travellers frequently lose their way. On arriving at *Hawz-i-Sultán* we found our tents pitched near a stone built *caravanserá*, which is ascribed to SHA'II A'BA'S, like the adjoining *Hawz*; a reservoir so deep and spacious that the water collected in it during winter, supplies amply all caravans, and occasional travellers of the subsequent summer; and indeed, we thought it less offensive than the spring water brought from the last stage in leathern *mesheks* and *matarrahs*; all our *siúrsát* or allowance of meat, bread, eggs and butter, also the barley for mules and horses, had been provided at *Kum*. The Thermometer at half past three o'clock, stood at 79.

I walked a few miles into the desert surrounding our camp; it scarcely yielded nourishment to a thistle; and the only living creatures visible were lizards. The hills beyond *Tehrán* appeared fully in view; particularly Mount *Damáqand*, crowned with eternal snow.

We left *Hawz-i-Sultán* soon after four on the seventh, and arrived at our tents near *Kunar-i-gird* (کنارگرد) about eleven o'clock; the wearisome march of this morning was twenty-four miles and one quarter; by a road not always bad, but crossing one of the most dreary wastes, where the only variety was an alternate succession of salsuginous plains and barren hills over which we did not pass without some difficulty. Of this desert the greater part bears, and not inappropriately, the portentous name of *Melek al mowt dereh* (ملك الموت دره) or "Valley of the Angel of Death."

Having emerged from this dismal region, we rode, near the close of our journey, three or four times through a winding stream called *Rúd Kháneh i Carege* (رودخانه کرچ) or the river of *Carege*, which, as the capaciousness of its bed testifies, must be, at another season, very considerable; and its water is reckoned excellent. Near this we passed a *caravanserá* and the village of *Zián* (زیان), which seemed to contain eighty or an hundred houses; about half a mile farther we alighted at our tents not far from the village of *Kunár-e-gird*, where the present king has erected a *caravanserá*. Here we saw a few storks; and admired some trees, as objects that had seldom occurred during the last forty or fifty miles; and there were several remains of old walls and tombs, scattered around the camp.

Soon after two o'clock the Thermometer rose to 82; and about six in the evening a violent wind came on suddenly



from the west; blowing down some of our tents; tearing others, and involving all in clouds of dust; it continued to rage with equal fury during a great part of the night. We learned that the people call it *Bad-i-Shahriár* (باد شهریار) or the "Wind of *Shahriár*" from a pleasant village so named, with good gardens, situate eighteen or twenty miles westward of *Tehrán*; and it is said to blow at stated hours, for three, seven, or nine days together.

From anecdotes related by some Persians both on the march and after our arrival in camp, it appeared that the nocturnal fears of travellers have peopled the dreary *Valley of the Angel of Death* with imaginary monsters, who delight in misleading, terrifying, and often destroying the descendants of Adam. Thinking it more probable that the place afforded game, I inquired from one man as we rode through the haunted scene, about antelopes, partridges and hares; all these, he declared to be *kheily kam* (خیلی کم) very few, exceedingly scarce; adding however, that *Ghúles* were here but too numerous. Although Eastern tales had furnished me with some vague ideas of those malignant demons, I asked my ingenious companion what they were; *Ghúles*, answered he, are *joonavár* (so he pronounced *jánvār* جانوار) creatures having life; beings that can assume the human form, but generally render themselves hideous with horns, tails, and formidable claws or talons. "That they abounded here five or six hundred years ago," said another Persian.

with much solemnity, "is one of those circumstances acknowledged throughout the whole world; but latterly, "from some cause unknown, their appearance has not been "frequent."

At six o'clock on the eighth we began to march, and at half past nine reached our camp near *Cahrízék* (کهریزک), a village of about three hundred houses, distant from *Kunár-igird* eleven miles; the road was stony and bad, over barren plains and rugged mountains; during the ride of this morning we suffered much from the *Shahryár* wind, which was extremely cold, and blew with such violence that several *ferashes* could scarcely contrive to pitch one tent.

When we had ascended a steep hill three or four miles from *Cahrízék*, the ultimate object of our destination, *Tehrán*, presented itself to view, appearing some farsangs beyond our camp; and still farther than the city we could discern the *Kasr i Kájár* (تصر قاجار), a royal palace, at the foot of a mountain, one of the immense range denominated *Alburz* (البرز) bounding the plain towards the north, and extending, as we heard, to *Cazvín*, *Sultántah*, and *Tabríz*, on the west, and to *Khurásán* on the east; an account sufficiently agreeing with *HAMDALLAH*'s written description, which shall be quoted in the Appendix.

The ninth day of November terminated our journey. We left *Cahrízék* early, and having proceeded a few miles, met

the *istikbál* advancing from *Tihrán*; it consisted of multitudes on foot, and about three hundred horsemen, of whom thirty or forty carried long lances; at the head of all rode MUHAMMED ALI KHA'N (محمد علی خان) the *Amír al omrá* (امیر الامرا) or "Chief of the Nobles," accompanied by MIRZA' MUHAMMED A'LI (میرزا محمد علی) the *Vazír* or minister of prince HASSAN ALI' MI'RZA' (حسن علی میرزا) and other personages of high rank, magnificently dressed, and mounted on fiery chargers. With them also came Mr. Sheridan, in whose care the late envoy, Sir Harford Jones, had left the various records of his mission.

Near the road was a spacious and very splendid tent wherein coffee and *caleáns*, fruits and sweetmeats had been provided. Here the Ambassador with most of the English gentlemen halted, whilst Lady Onseley, Lieutenant Willock, Mr. Sharp and I went on, with a guard of ten sepoy dragoons and twenty Persian musketeers; we passed among the considerable ruins which I shall hereafter more fully describe, of ancient *Rai* or *Rey*, supposed to have been *Rages* mentioned in the book of Tobit; and within an hour and a half reached the capital. Soon after our arrival the Ambassador followed, and having been again feasted, joined us at the *Amin' ad douleh's* house.

The distance between our last stage, *Cahrízeh* and the gate, called *Derwázeh i Sháh abd-al-aazim* by which we

entered *Tehrán*, was found to be nearly twelve miles and one quarter; and the whole journey from the *Kúsh-Kháneh* of *Isfahán*, two hundred and forty-two miles, according to actual measurement made with the wheel or perambulator.

In this space, so much was naked desert without a vestige of habitation; and so scantily peopled were the few cultivated parts; that the hyperbole of a tradition recorded by NIZA'MI appeared, more than ever, ridiculously extravagant. Describing the state of Persia in the fourth century, when it flourished under BA'HARA'M GU'R, the poet says (in his romance entitled *Haft Peiker* هفت پیکر or the "Seven Forms") "I have heard that from *Ispahán* to *Raï*, the houses were "contiguous like reeds growing closely together; so that if a "blind person were willing, he might go from the flat roof "of one house to another, the whole way between *Raï* and "*Isfahán*;" thus, in the oldest and best of four fine MSS;

از سپاهان شنیده ام تاري	خانه در خانه شد تنیده چوني
بام بر بام اگر بدي خواهان	کوري از ري شدي باصفهان

NIZA'MI, however, conscious that in his own time (the twelfth century) this tradition might be reasonably doubted, divests himself of all responsibility for the truth of it, and refers his reader to the original relater;

مگر ترا این حدیث روشن نیست      عهده بر او نیست بر من نیست

## CHAPTER XVI.

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*First Residence at Tehrán, and visit to the Ruins of Raï or Rages.*

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ALTHOUGH the King had been for some days absent on a hunting party, at the time of our arrival in *Tehrán*; we found the city filled with princes and noblemen; ministers; great officers of state; and others who held, or wished to hold employments about the court. There were also many military commanders of high rank, and the agents of those *beglerbegs* (بيکلبیگ) who governed distant provinces, and thought it necessary to retain friends as spies at the residence of their sovereign. The splendid and frequent cavalcades formed by so many distinguished personages when they passed even from one extremity of a street to the other, and their lofty titles which at every corner assailed our ears, would have sufficed to convince us that we had reached the *pái-takht* (پای تخت) or “Footstool of the Throne,” the seat of empire and fountain of honour.

Arrangements were now made for our introduction to the Monarch immediately on his return, which he had fixed, as the *Vazírs* declared, for the thirteenth day of this month. Meanwhile he sent to the Ambassador a very flattering *Khúshámedy* (خوشامدی) or "welcome," with some of the royal *shikár* (شکار) or game; three antelopes (*ahú* اهو) and fifty *kabks* (کبک) or partridges, killed by his own hand; a circumstance which considerably enhanced the value of this present, and entitled the bearer to a recompense not less than the wages of half a year; these indeed, it was whispered, would be, according to custom, deducted or witholden<sup>(1)</sup>.

I devoted at this time two or three mornings to an examination of *Tehrán*, having previously searched my collection of passages extracted from Persian geographers, for some information concerning its ancient history. Their accounts, however, are but scanty; nor can much be expected on the subject of a place, which, when the vast metropolis, *Rai* (ری) or *Rages*, covered, according to all reports, and the evidence of its extensive ruins, so many miles or leagues on the adjacent plain, was probably considered as among the suburbs; and we may suppose that *Tehrán* increased in size and popu-

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(1) Respecting this custom see an anecdote related in Vol. 1. p. 207. But I must acknowledge that on one occasion at *Tehrán*, when the king sent ten fine *ahús*, his servant most obstinately refused twenty gold *tumáns* which were offered to him by the Ambassador's order; so positive was the royal prohibition, that he feared to incur the loss of his nose or ears, or perhaps of his head, by disobedience.

lation as the parent city fell into decay. "*Tehrán*," says HAMDALLAH, who wrote in the fourteenth century, "is a town of some magnitude or importance; and in the pleasantness of its climate and water is preferable to *Rai*; which, however, it resembles in natural productions; and formerly all the necessities of life were found at *Tehrán* in great abundance"<sup>(2)</sup>. The *Amir* FAZLALLAH having mentioned various anecdotes of Alexander (the Great) adds "thus also respecting the place and circumstances of his death there are contradictory reports; some saying that he expired at *Babylon*, or, according to other traditions at *Rai*; many are of opinion that this event occurred at *Tehrán*; or, as several have related, at *Shahrzúr*"<sup>(3)</sup>. These passages would induce us to believe that *Tehrán* was independent of *Rai*; and the same inference is made, by a most ingenious writer (Mr. Inglis in his notes on Morier's Travels, Vol. I. p. 400) from the Theodosian Tables, which describe the town called *Tahora* to be situate with respect to *Rhages*, nearly as *Tehrán* is with respect to *Rai*.

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(<sup>2</sup>) طهران قصبه معتبرست و آب و هوايش خوشتر از ري است و در حاصل مانده  
(MS. *Nuzhat al Culub*, ch. 2.) ان در ما قبل انجا كثرتي عظيم بوده

(<sup>3</sup>) همچنين در موضع مرك و چگونگي ان نيز اختلاف كرده اند بعضي گويند كه  
در بابل بوده و روايت است كه در ري بوده است و گروهى برآنند كه در طهران بوده  
(MS. *Asseh el Tuatkh*.) است و بعضي گفتند كه در شهرزور بوده



According to some intelligent natives, *Tehrán* occupies a space, enclosed within ramparts, of one farsang in circumference; and this is the only instance that I can recollect wherein a Persian estimate of measurement, population or wealth, did not considerably exaggerate the true calculation; to me this statement seemed below the reality; and I should rather extend it to four or perhaps to nearly five miles. These walls include the *Areg* (ارگ) or citadel, which contains the *Diván Kháneh-i-Sháh* (دیوان خانه شاه) or *Derb i Kháneh* (درب خانه) as the royal residence is often styled<sup>(\*)</sup>. One of the *tálárs* (تالا) or great open-fronted halls in this edifice, is richly decorated with gilding, painting, and *A'ineh-kári* (اینه کاری) or inlaid-mirror-work; and supported by two fine pillars which KARI'M KHA'N (کریم خان), of the unfortunate *Zend* (زند) family, had caused to be constructed at *Shiráz*. The *Areg* comprises quarters for the *Keshekhchis* (کشکچی) or soldiers; and many extensive *dest* (دست) or ranges of apartments, such as the *Defter Kháneh*, (chamber of records) (دفتر خانه), the *Sandúk-Kháneh*, (مندوق خانه) (chest or trunk house), where money, splendid robes, shawls, and other valuable articles are deposited in boxes; the *Emúret-i-Khúrshíd* (عمارت خورشید) or "Palace of the Sun;" a handsome

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(\*) And sometimes *Derb i Dowlet Kháneh* (درب دولت خانه) as in the MS. *Astum Aráí Abbási* (dated A. H. 1025, A. D. 1616). I know not any earlier instance of the *h* inserted after *r* in the first word, which is properly *در* *der*, "a gate;" used to express the royal court or palace. In Vol. I. (pref. p. XVI) I have quoted on this subject the books of Daniel and Esther, Herodotus, Xenophon and Plutarch.

building in which FATEH ALI SHA'H sometimes receives Ambassadors ; his private chambers constituting the *Khalwet Sháhi* (خلوت شاهي) and *Anderún Sháhi* (اندرون شاهي); of which one compartment is called *Emáret-i-Servistán* (عمارت سروستان) or "Palace of the Cypress grove;" and another the *Gulistán* (گلستان) or "Bed of Roses." Here too is the royal *Hharem* (حرم) or dwelling-place of the king's numerous wives and their female attendants ; and many of the younger princes are allowed to occupy certain rooms within the *Areg*, which contains ten baths, two or three gardens, besides several *hawz* (حوض) and *deriácheh* (دریاچه) or reservoirs of different sizes ; all surrounded by a wall with towers, and a deep ditch. Near the gate of this citadel is the *Jebbeh Kháneh* (جبهه خانه) an armoury or arsenal, where persons are constantly employed in cleaning and repairing *tofangs* (تفنگ) or muskets ; *tapánchehs* (طپانچه) or pistols, (so the name was written ; but pronounced *tapooncheh*) and *zembúreks* (زنبورك) or swivel guns which are discharged from the backs of camels ; here also are kept some *túp* (توپ) or pieces of heavy cannon.

The gates of *Tehrán* are six in number ; the mosques and colleges, said to be from thirty to forty ; the publick baths three hundred, and *caravanseras* equally numerous. Of the population I heard various reports ; the streets seemed full of people ; and it is computed that the city contains between forty and sixty thousand inhabitants, whilst the king, his courtiers, chief military officers and guards are there ; but that in summer, on his going, as for several years has been

his custom, to the camp of *Sultániah*, none remain at *Tehrán* but those whom ill health, or poverty, or some particular business do not allow to leave it; even the meanest trader or mechanick, escaping from the heats and infectious vapours of this capital, contrives, during two or three months every year, to breathe the pure air of *Shemírán* (شمیران) or some of the neighbouring villages. From those villages the city is abundantly supplied with poultry, eggs, butter, and fruit of various kinds; especially most excellent *tút* (توت) or mulberries, for which *Shemírán* is remarkable.

The different *bázars* exhibit many well-furnished shops; but some streets although the king, his ministers and other great men are daily witnesses of the circumstance, would disgrace by their pavement the meanest town or village. I have seen an illustrious *Khán* almost thrown, in a crowded procession, from his horse, whose fore feet had sunk, with a sudden and perpendicular descent, into one of those round holes or openings which mark the channels of *kanáts* (plur. تنوات sing. تنات) or subterraneous aqueducts. These are numerous; and near the city run some small streams besides the river *Cāredje* (کارج) of which the water is highly esteemed.

*Tehrán* owes much of its greatness, beauty and strength to the tyrant AGA MOHAMMED uncle of the present king. Yet some Persians say that SHA'H TAHMASP (who died in the year 1575) surrounded it with walls. The desert reaches to its

very ditch; within the inclosure were formerly several gardens; but since the city has become so populous, houses are found more profitable than trees or flowers; and in few parts of the empire do so many handsome and commodious buildings appear on the same space of ground. Here every man of rank and fortune, all who aspire to the sovereign's notice, endeavour to procure a dwelling; the rent therefore, and the price of land, elsewhere comparatively trifling, have risen here so considerably, that, as I understood, *Tehrán* in these articles of expense, nearly equalled any European metropolis. It is scarcely necessary to mention that our powerful and wealthy friend, the *Amín ad douleh*, second minister of Persia, had in this city a spacious mansion; he resigned it, however, for the Ambassador and gentlemen of the mission; removing with his attendants to another exactly opposite, while workmen were employed in preparing two houses allotted for our habitation<sup>(5)</sup>.

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(5) An ichnographical account of the house (*AMI'N AD DOULEH'S*) in which we first lodged at *Tehrán*, shall be given in the Appendix; which, with a sketch of its front engraved in Pl. LXIII, will convey some idea of what may be styled a Persian nobleman's town residence. In the middle appears the *tálár* or open hall, called also *Diván Kháneh*, the chamber of assembly, or place for the reception of visitors; this we made our *Suffreh Kháneh* or breakfast and dining-room. On the right, a handsome room of which the large square window fills one end, was appropriated to Mr. Gordon; that corresponding on the left, to me. A detached edifice comprising some private apartments called the *anderán* or "interior," which I could not include in this view, served Sir Gore and Lady Ouseley; and another separate building at the back, accommodated Mr. Morier; while the rooms situate on both sides of the great court, were occupied by Major D'Arcy, Major Stone, and other English gentlemen. It must

Having taken possession of my chamber, (in the *Amin ad douleh's* house) I learned from a servant that its last tenants had been members of the French Embassy under General de Gardane; and this information was confirmed by various sentences and ciphers traced on the walls; there were, particularly, some verses written in a most beautiful hand<sup>(6)</sup>.

Although the weather was now cool, the Thermometer not rising above 56 on the tenth, twelfth, and thirteenth of November, we were much annoyed by moschitoes (*pasheh*) (پشه) or gnats of considerable size. Here as at *Shîrâz* and *Isfa-*

not be imagined that the frog delineated in this sketch, is immediately presented to the publick; a high brick wall conceals it from view, and those only can see the house who enter the court or garden before it.

(<sup>6</sup>) These I accurately copied, and have ventured to translate, although not much acquainted with the modern style of orthography which they exhibit;

*“Les rois De L'antiquité  
Netes que Des herot Destet  
fuiént la nege comme les irondelle  
Pour heut la victoire enuiver  
navoit point Delle mais  
napoleon marche malgre la gruille.”*

“The kings of ancient times were only summer heroes, avoiding snow like the swallows. “For them, victory in winter had no wings; but Napoleon marches forward in spite “of the hail.” Here also were several lines of SAADI's and JA'MI's poetry, scratched in the rudest Persian characters; and a few original compositions, of which the following tetra-stich will probably be accepted as a sufficient specimen;

نویستم بر سردی آرخانه      بماند از من مسکین نشانه  
گر پرسند آن مسکین کجا رفت      بگو بگریخت از دست زمانه

“Let that which I have written on the wall of this house, remain as the memorial of “me, a wretched creature; if it be asked, whither is that wretch gone? say, he has “escaped from the power of adversity.”

*hán*, I bespoke the services of book-sellers, money-changers, silver-smiths and others, through whose means rare manuscripts, or ancient gems and medals might be procured.

News arrived (on the thirteenth) of a battle fought near *Iraván*, in which the Russians, it was said, had suffered much from the Persian artillery, under the direction of "Captain Lindesay, an English officer. Meanwhile, the king and his son, HASSAN ALI MI'RZA' (حسن علي میرزا) having terminated their hunting excursion, a very active negotiation commenced respecting certain forms necessary on the Ambassador's first introduction at court; for he had resolved on presenting with his own hand, the British Monarch's letter to FATEH A'LI SHAH; while the *Vazírs* insisted that it should be transmitted through them, according to the usage of Persia, established, as they declared, above five thousand years. The king himself, though he expressed a strong desire to see Sir Gore Ouseley, regretted that he could not possibly receive the letter directly from him at a publick audience; but to remove all difficulties, and spare the feelings of his ministers, he fixed on the fifteenth for a private interview, and consented that it should be then delivered to him by the Ambassador. Accordingly, about four o'clock on the day appointed, Sir Gore Ouseley and Mr. Morier, Secretary of Embassy, attended by the Sepoy dragoons, having their swords drawn, the royal standard of England flying, and trumpets sounding, proceeded to the palace, and were welcomed with much



affability by the king. He did not occupy one of his magnificent thrones, as on days of high ceremony; but sat on a carpet richly worked with gold, near which was placed a chair for the Ambassador. Having received the letter, according to previous arrangement, and a very valuable diamond ring, FATEH A'LI SHA'H repaid the gift with many flattering compliments.

On the eighteenth at eight o'clock in the morning, we went to return the *Amín ad douleh's* visit; and having ascended a flight of stairs, were conducted by him to a room which, though small, was exceedingly pretty; the ceiling neatly painted with figures of birds and flowers disposed in *Arabesque* patterns; the centre, however, being a human face, apparently feminine, yet designed, as the golden rays of glory indicated, to represent the sun. The cornice was of looking-glass; and with the same showy substance were lined two *ták-cheh* (طاقچه) or niches, and a false fire-place; in one recess was the portrait of a beautiful Georgian girl; in another, of a handsome *bírish* (بیریش) or beardless boy; a large window chiefly composed of coloured panes, wholly filled one end of this chamber, which, though not above nineteen feet long, and thirteen or fourteen broad, exhibited eight doors, splendidly ornamented and varnished.

Some person mentioned the Caspian sea; and two *A'zádmáhi* (ازاد ماهی) as specimens of its fish, were presented for our



inspection on a silver tray; they had been dried and slightly salted; each seemed about two feet long, and of a kind resembling salmon. Having returned home, we found at breakfast that their flavour was excellent; for the hospitable *Amín ad douleh* had sent them to the Ambassador; and at dinner we were feasted with fresh trouts, brought from the river *Jájerúd* (جارجرد).

A few days after, we deposited in the Armenian cemetery with such funeral honours as could be conveniently bestowed, the body of an Artillery sergeant (named Spears), whose death had been caused by a disease originally felt at *Isfahán*, and rendered mortal by the journey<sup>(7)</sup>. The place of his interment was close to a small *chartúk* (چارطاق) or four-arched monument of brick erected over Monsieur Romieu, a French gentleman; and near the more recent and humble grave of a Russian<sup>(8)</sup>.

Returning from this melancholy ceremony our cavalcade encountered a procession formed on a very different occa-

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(7) I learned from the surgeons who opened Serjeant Spears's body, that they found the liver perfectly sound; but could not discover any vestiges of the spleen; while some obstructions appeared, and an incipient mortification in the bowels.

(8) "Nous visitons le tombeau de M. Romieu, Adjutant General et Envoyé en Perse; quatre piliers de briques et un petit dôme le recouvrent." (See M. de Gardane's "Journal d'un Voyage," &c. p. 69; Paris 1809). When we visited the tomb of M. Romieu it was falling to ruin.

sion; the celebration of an *arúsy* (عروسی) or nuptial festivity. The bride whose form was concealed by a white sheet of fine texture, rode on horseback in the attitude habitual to men throughout all countries and to women in the east; on her head was loosely thrown a red handkerchief or veil, seemingly of crape; her numerous female companions were, as usual, completely enveloped in their *châders* (چادر), all except two; of whom one was extremely old and ugly; the other a beautiful though very dark-complexioned girl. The same horse carried her and a middle-aged man; she seemed neither flattered nor offended at our notice, but shewed her interesting face with as much unconcern and as little impudence, as any European beauty.

The 23rd of November had been fixed for our publick introduction at court; but the alleged indisposition, whether affected or real, of MÍRZA' SHEFIA (میرزا شفیع) the chief *Vazír*, or minister for foreign affairs, prevented it; and we learned, on the 25th, that the king had just set out on another hunting party, which would probably engage him during three or four days. In the mean time, our society was increased by the arrival of Captain Lindešay from *Tabríz*, where he had commanded, and admirably trained, according to the English discipline, a troop of Persian horse-artillery, in the service of ABBA'S MÍRZA'. It was the Ambassador's wish, in consequence of that Prince's request, to have immediately sent Major D'Arcy and Major Stone, along with Captain Linde-

say to *Tabríz*; but the king would not consent that any of those officers should leave *Tehrán* without *khelaats* (خلعت) or dresses of honour, to receive which he expected their attendance at the palace.

We all paid our respects on the 27th, to prince A'LI SHA'H (علي شاه) who resided in the *Areg* before described; his coat was of a dark green colour and plain; but on his arms he wore splendid *bázú bands* (بازو بند) or bracelets, studded with jewels; the handle of his dagger, or *khanjer* (خنجر) was equally rich; and his coronet blazed with diamonds, emeralds and rubies; he appeared to be seventeen or eighteen years of age, and conversed most graciously with the Ambassador, asking questions and making remarks that evinced a considerable desire of information, and great activity of mind. A'LI SHA'H, and the prince royal, ABBA'S MI'RZA', are sons of one mother<sup>(9)</sup>.

As we entered and returned through the *Meidan* (میدان) or chief square of the *Areg*, I counted above forty pieces of cannon, mounted on carriages which would probably have

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(9) Hitherto accustomed to hear Persian spoken with the southern accent, considered at *Shiráz* and *Isfahán*, and even in many places of the north, as *kheyly shírín* (خیلی شیرین) extremely soft or melodious, my ear was surprised, and I confess not very agreeably, by the broad, though more correct, sound, which ALI SHA'H gave to the *a*, before *n*, in such words as *Irání*, and *Isfahání*. These an Italian would have pronounced exactly as the prince; while we had learned to express them as if written (by an Englishman) *Iroony*, *Isfahoony*; or (by a Frenchman) *Irouni*, and *Isfahouni*.

been shattered by a single discharge. We observed under the principal *tálár* or open-fronted hall of the palace, outside, some reliefs in marble, representing combats of beasts and similar subjects, sculptured with more spirit and justness of proportions than I had expected in the works of a modern Persian artist. Much inferior in execution and design were several oil-paintings attached to the walls of A'LI SHA'H's apartment.

The thirtieth was at length appointed for our presentation to the king; and accordingly, at one o'clock on that day, we proceeded in full ceremony to the royal residence, where a guard of about two hundred men, (chiefly, as we understood, Russian prisoners), received us at the *Meidán* or parade, with arms presented, according to the European style of military compliment. We then advanced as far it was allowed to ride on horseback; and having alighted at an inner gate of the *Areg*, walked through it, and were conducted by several officers along various narrow passages, to a small room, where we found MOHAMMED HUSEIN KHA'N (محمد حسين خان) surnamed MARVI (مروى) a personage of very high birth and exalted rank, with other great men<sup>(10)</sup>; here chairs had been provided for our accommodation; they were

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(<sup>10</sup>) Of these, one was ILLAHYÄ'R KHA'N (الاهيار خان), whom the king once caused to be shut out naked, during a whole night of incessant snow, as a punishment for having, on some former occasion, refused his Majesty admission into a castle.

of dark-coloured wood, having high backs and large knobs; and much resembled those which, from illuminated missals and other Manuscripts, appear to have been fashionable some centuries ago, in France and England. I remarked that MARVI's chair, whether assigned to him as the seat of honour, or accidentally occupied, was distinguished from the rest, by a higher back, rising in the middle to a point, like the apex of a triangle.

Here we were treated with coffee and *caleáns*. The same officers then led us through a court where we saw, in an open hall, the celebrated *takht-i-marmer* (تخت مرمر) or "Marble Throne," of which the materials were brought from *Yezd*; it exhibited many handsome reliefs carved by the ingenious person of whose sculpture I possess and have already described a specimen, (Vol. I. p. 232, Pl. XII). We passed through two or three other courts and some long passages, containing soldiers and attendants dressed in an extraordinary manner; their clothes being spotted over with golden pieces of money, sequins and ducats; and many wore helmets of uncommon appearance. We at last entered that building in which was the hall of audience; and having shaken off our slippers went in about twenty yards, making profound obeisances, as instructed by our conductors, at certain intervals from the spot where first it was possible that the king could discern us; then forming a line near the *hawz* or reservoir in front of the presence-chamber, we per-

ceived his Majesty seated on the *takht-i-tâous* (تخت طاوس) or "Peacock-throne;" and when the master of the ceremonies announced the English Embassy, we distinctly heard the usual *khúshamedid* or "welcome," uttered by the royal lips.

Having entered the hall of audience, the Ambassador took his seat on a chair placed at the distance of about two yards from the door, and five or six from the throne, in a direction almost diagonal; but rose after two or three minutes and severally presented us; an office which, as we understood, the *Vazirs* had heretofore insisted on performing. As each gentleman was introduced by name, the Monarch said something highly flattering and gracious with a courtly and dignified air. We then arranged ourselves in a row behind the chair immediately near which the Ambassador continued to stand during the remainder of this interview.

Next the throne, which occupied a corner, not the center, of the room, were two little princes, five or perhaps six years old, who stood immoveable as statues, the whole time of audience, displaying a gravity of demeanour and solemnity of countenance, that would have become the most aged and venerable of their father's ministers. More remote from the throne, but in the same line, were five other princes, the eldest and tallest being next, at an interval of two yards, to the little boys above mentioned: this was HASSAN ALI MI'RZA', seemingly twenty years old: close on the right,



was ALI SHA'H, to whom we had paid our respects some days before: near him stood a younger prince and then two others; all stationed according to age and size, this royal rank ending with one of eight or nine years.

On the same side but in a recess formed by large windows, appeared three *Mastowfies* (مستوفي) or secretaries; these were on our left hand as we stood behind the Ambassador's chair; while on our right near the door, were four of the principal *Vazirs* or ministers, with ABU'L HASSAN KHA'N, who had accompanied us to the palace. Beyond them and extending towards the left side of the throne, was a row of five or six officers; among whom one held a most beautiful crown or *taje* (تاج), apparently not inferior in the lustre of its jewels to that with which the Monarch's head was so magnificently decorated; another of those officers bore in his hands the scymetar of state; a third held the royal bow in its case; a fourth, the shield; and one a golden tray or dish filled with diamonds and different precious stones of wonderful size and dazzling brilliancy. Of the king's dress I could perceive that the colour was scarlet; but to ascertain exactly the materials would have been difficult, from the profusion of large pearls that covered it in various places, and the multiplicity of jewels that sparkled all around; for the golden throne seemed studded at the sides with precious stones of every possible tint, and the back resembled a sun or glory, of which the radiation was imi-



tated by diamonds, garnets, emeralds and rubies. Of such also, was chiefly composed the Monarch's ample and most splendid crown; and the two figures of birds that ornamented the throne, one perched on each of its beautifully enamelled shoulders.

It was easy to recognise in the handsome and manly countenance of FATEH ALI SHAH, those features which I had seen represented by several delineations. Portraits of their king may be found in every town among the Persians; large and painted on canvas; or small, on leaves of paper; on the covers of looking-glasses, on *kalmáns* or pencases, and on the lids of boxes; even the most rudely executed presenting, generally, some similitude. All, at least, agree in rendering justice to the royal beard; of which, I could not discover, that any picture, as it was natural to suspect, had exaggerated the uncommon length and copiousness. Of this beard, stained always with the blackest dye, as of the king's person, an idea, sufficiently accurate, may be formed from the engraving published by Mr. Scott Waring, in the account of his "Tour to Sheeraz<sup>(1)</sup>," and from the miniature painting on a *sandúkch* or pasteboard box in my collection, of which (See p. 64) I promised to lay a copy before the reader. This is given in Plate LXIV, faithfully traced from the original pic-

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(1) From a Persian picture; but Sir Robert Ker Porter in the frontispiece to his *Travels* lately published, has given, from a fine drawing made by himself, a strong and spirited resemblance of the Persian Monarch's countenance.

ture of the same size, without the slightest correction or extenuation of its defects, which all who admire just proportions and perspective must acknowledge to be numerous. It will serve, however, infinitely better than any description that I am capable of composing, to explain some circumstances of the royal presence chamber: it exhibits what words cannot represent, a likeness of FATEH-ALI-SHA'H, and the sable honours of his beard; it shews most exactly the fashion of his clothes, the form of his crown and the triple plume that surmounts it; of his *bazúbands* or bracelets, and of his sword, encased in pearls and gold: it expresses also, his attitude; that indeed generally of all Persians when sitting.

He occupies in this picture, not the *takht-i-táous*, (its birds and other particular ornaments being here omitted) but a seat much resembling it in make, in the steps and in brilliant appearance: another throne, of which I have forgotten the name; for he possesses, like the ancient *Iránian* Monarchs, several of those regal attributes, each distinguished by an appropriate title. The artist has depicted with minute accuracy that cushion, almost covered with pearls, which is usually placed behind the king, who kneels or sits on a cloth equally rich in its embroidery. On the floor is spread such a carpet as we daily saw in the apartments of great men, bordered with one of those *nammeds* (نمد a kind of fine soft felts), before mentioned, having a coloured pattern. Beyond this we perceive a wooden frame of open

work ; this is generally twelve or fourteen inches high, and serves as a fence to rooms open in front. The columns and fountain belong, as a native of *Tehrán* informed me, to a *tálár* in the "*emúret-i-ġulistán*," or "Palace of the Rose-garden;" but the painter's imagination has supplied the distant landscape. I can bear witness however to the scrupulous correctness with which he has delineated every article of dress, worn by the personages introduced on this occasion. The four princes, of whom two are seen on the king's right, and two, a little behind, on his left hand, we find distinguished by coronets, exceedingly splendid, but without those heron's feathers, which peculiarly designate the imperial crown. Near the fountain stand three *Vazírs*, habited in their court-robcs ; these as I had often occasion to remark, are, both in winter and summer, lined or at least trimmed, richly with fur. On their heads they wear the full-dress turbans, of fine Indian shawls ; among these *Vazírs*, *MI'RZA' SHEFIA* (میرزا شفیع) the prime minister, is conspicuous in the middle ; his beard, which from age we may suppose naturally white, being, through some senile caprice, stained of a dusky orange, or yellowish red colour. On his left is the *Amín ad doulah*, and on his right, *MI'RZA' ZERI*. Opposite the *Vazírs* and near the throne, are two of those pages or attendants, whom, in my account of our audience I have styled "officers;" one holds the royal *siper* (سپر) or shield ; and one the *gurz* (گرز) or mace of state ; these men have the common *kuláh* (کلاه), or black lamb-skin caps, of which

the best are said to be brought from *Bokhárd*; such coverings are almost universally worn, except on days of ceremony, even by the king and princes.

This explanation of the picture, and the copy made from it, (in Pl. LXIV) will, I trust, sufficiently illustrate the description already given, of our presentation at court, and first publick interview with the *kibleh-i-aalum* (قبلة عالم) as that Monarch is entitled “towards whom all the world turns with veneration;” the mighty *Sháhinsháh* (شاهنشاه) or “King of Kings;” according to the lofty style assumed by his predecessors.

We remained in the royal presence about twenty minutes; during which time FATEH ALI SHA'H conversed most graciously with the Ambassador; and having received from a kneeling servant, the state *Cadeán*, rich in the lustre of jewels, he inhaled its smoke but for a moment, and gave back this precious instrument of Asiatick luxury. The room in which he sat, was spacious and handsome, disfigured however, by glaring oil-paintings of considerable size and very mean execution; two large English mirrors contributed much to its embellishment. We retired, bowing at certain intervals towards the throne, on our return through the garden, while within a possibility of being seen by the king; then resuming our high-heeled slippers, or *kafsh* (کفش) we walked along courts and passages, and under narrow door-ways, crowded with servants, guards, and officers of the palace, and great

*kháns* or lords ; some men, whose office I neglected to inquire, held, each in his hand, a sceptre or slender wand, nearly four feet long, and apparently of gold enameled green ; with the figure of a bird at top, as large as a real sparrow, and made of emeralds. rubies and other jewels.

The first of December was dark and foggy ; such as even in England would have been reckoned a true winter's day ; on the second, which was of equal gloom, much rain fell, while the Thermometer, at its highest degree, did not rise above 52.

A fortnight had now elapsed in fruitless endeavours to adjust, between Sir Gore Ouseley and MÍRZA' SHERÍF, the ceremonial, or rather, the priority of visiting. This crafty *Vazír* had devised many stratagems, by which, as he vainly hoped, the Ambassador might be induced to wait first upon him ; but whatever concessions Sir Gore would willingly have made in his private character, he positively refused to comply on this or on any occasion, where his acquiescence might lessen the dignity of that Sovereign whom he had the honour to represent. It was then suggested that both parties might, as if by accident, meet on neutral ground in the *Amin ad douleh's* garden, and enter the door of his house together ; but this contrivance, also, was rejected by the Ambassador ; reminding those who mediated in the affair, that 'ÁBU'L HASSAN KHA'N, late envoy to England, had received the first visit from our ministers ; and insisting unequivocally,

on a similar compliment, from MI'RZA' SHEFIA. This, the old *Vazir* assured the king, would be such a disgrace as he had not suffered during the diplomatick services of forty years. At length he consented to become the Ambassador's guest; and, on the second, partook of a grand dinner, given at the house lent for this purpose by the *Amin ad douleh*; it being much more splendid, large and commodious, than that immediately opposite, in which we lived. About seven o'clock in the evening, MI'RZA' SHEFIA with the other ministers arrived, and the entertainment began; during which the *Amin ad douleh* chose the least conspicuous place; appearing as humblest of the company, to shew that he did not, this night, consider himself master of the feast. Here, in the course of much animated conversation, MI'RZA' SHEFIA evinced considerable acquaintance with the manners, customs, religious opinions, and even politicks of the chief Christian nations; he acknowledged the vast superiority of European, compared with Asiatick inventions; and seemed particularly delighted at the description of our post-offices, and the arrangements made for transmitting letters by mail-coaches; this introduced the subject of wheel-carriages, and finally of Persian roads; on mentioning which, the *Vazir*, thinking of their general state, shrugged his shoulders with a look of despondency; fingered his beard, and appeared to resign, but most reluctantly, some ideal projects that he had conceived for the benefit of his country.



At nine o'clock on the third, we all accompanied the Ambassador to M'IRZA' SHEFIA'S house, situate beyond the *A'reg*; there was much rain, during the time of our ride and of our visit. We were treated in the usual manner with *caleáns*, sweetmeats, and coffee. Returning about noon, we met one of the king's elephants; (his Majesty, we understood, possessed six or seven others); it was an immense creature, perfectly obedient to a diminutive rider. The fifth, after some rain at an early hour, proved very fine, and sunshine succeeded to the clouds of three or four days.

On the sixth we removed to the two houses which had been prepared for our reception; and "furnished" according to the Persian definition of that expression; for some carpets were spread on the earthen floors. We had brought, however, from England, beds, chairs, tables and writing-desks, and were soon well established in our respective apartments; at breakfast and at dinner we all assembled, every morning and evening, in that house which became the constant residence of Sir Gore and Lady Ouseley; but to the Secretaries and other English gentlemen were assigned the various chambers of a mansion nearly opposite, once the dwelling-place of M'IRZA' BA'BA'. Here I occupied during several months, a very handsome and spacious room, the flat roof of which commanded a most extensive prospect; and enabled me to sketch the view of Mount *Damávand*, and part of the great *Alburz* range, seen over the houses of *Tehrán*; as



engraved in Plate LXIII<sup>(12)</sup>. The walls of this room exhibited patterns comprising branches and leaves, flowers of vivid colours, and birds of variegated plumage; disposed with considerable taste and painted with much neatness. To this a smaller room was attached by means of stairs, which led also to a *sháh-nishín*\*(شاه نشین), a kind of gallery or orchestra. Among its gilded ornaments, appeared a scroll or label, containing the words "*Yádgár-e-Mírzá Bába*" (یادگار میرزا بابا) "a memorial of MÍ'RZA' BA'BA'," the late unfortunate proprietor of this mansion; concerning whom, we heard it related that having incurred the king's displeasure by some irregularity in his accounts, or alleged defalcation of money, he was punished with death; his ample fortune being, at the same time, confiscated. I was much mortified one day, overhearing MÍ'RZA' BA'BA's son, (whose feelings, probably were blunted by adversity), soliciting permission to enter the very house which had been his father's and should have been his own, that he might offer a manuscript for sale to an English stranger. The fate of its former master threw a cloud of melancholy around this dwelling; but it was, for another reason, regarded by many Persians with almost superstitious dislike; it had been the scene of a very dark transaction. This, although recent, for it occurred within a few

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(12) At certain times, the summit of this great mountain was concealed by clouds; so that it could scarcely be distinguished from the adjoining heights; and its appearance might have completely deceived a draughtsman who had not seen it on a clear day.

years, was variously described; I shall collect and briefly state from several accounts, the principal circumstances in which most agreed.

A powerful chieftain named SA'DEK KHA'N (مانق خان), head of the turbulent *Shekâki* (شعاقی) tribe, had surrendered himself to the general of FATEH ALI SHA'H, (lately proclaimed king on his uncle's death), a promise having been solemnly given, "*that the prisoner's blood should not be shed.*" The unhappy chief, however, was immediately sent to *Tehrân*, and imprisoned in a small room, or, as some relate, a vaulted cellar, of the house since occupied by us; there, exhausted with fatigue and faint through want of food, he soon forgot his sorrows in sleep; from which it would have been happiness, had he never awoke; for several masons were employed to fill up, with stones and mortar, the only passage by which he could possibly have emerged into the light of day; enjoyed the sight, or even heard the voice of human beings. I know not whether the imagination most fertile in pictures of complicated misery, could easily assign to any mortal a state much more capable of overwhelming the firmest mind with absolute despair. To many men, the privation of liberty; the pangs of excessive thirst and hunger; and, above all, the extinction of hope, would probably have rendered death most welcome; yet according to report, it was found, on opening after some weeks the place where SA'DEK KHA'N's body lay, that he had vainly endeavoured to prolong existence

by gnawing, as was horribly evident, the flesh from both his arms! <sup>(19)</sup>.

Let us turn to other subjects; the kind visits and polite congratulations with which we were now favoured by our acquaintances; and the little presents of sweet-meats, flowers, fruits, and loaves of sugar which Lady Ouseley received, as the *Manzil mubárek* (منزل مبارك) or usual tokens of felicitation sent to those who occupy a new place of residence. About this time, also, Major D'Arcy, Major Stone and Captain Lindesay, were honoured by the king with *khelaats* or dresses of ceremony, and proceeded to join the army of ABBA'S MI'RZA', the prince royal, at *Tabríz*. We partook on the seventh of a magnificent dinner at MI'RZA' SHEFIA'S house, to which we rode, about seven o'clock in the evening, by the light of many *fánús* (فانوس) or lanterns, made of paper or linen, in such a manner, that the various folds might be compressed to a thickness not exceeding two or three inches, and again protracted to the height of twenty.

An account of this feast may serve, with very little variation, to describe the other sumptuous entertainments at

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(19) Of the thousand atrocities imputed to AGA MOHAMMED KHA'N, uncle of the present king, some, we must hope for the honour of human nature, are exaggerated in the narration; but others are so strongly confirmed by the evidence of numerous witnesses still living, that it is not reasonable to doubt them. Among these, is his inviting a rival chief to debate on terms of reconciliation, AGA' MOHAMMED having sworn on the sacred *Korán* that he should be escorted before sunset to his own camp; the tyrant kept his word, but the chief was sent back dead.

which we attended. Our slippers having been left outside the door of a large and handsome room illuminated by means of lamps and candlesticks placed on the floor, the usual salutations and welcomes, and all the regular series of inquiries concerning health, and thanks for the honour conferred in visiting, began immediately on the Ambassador's entrance; were continued while MI'RZA' SHEFIA conducted him to a corner, and did not end for some minutes after we were all seated on *nammeds* spread over the splendid carpet, close to the walls<sup>(14)</sup>. The guests were then furnished with *caleáns*; mostly their own and by their own servants; for on these occasions the *Pish Khydmet* (پیش خدمت) or *valet de chambre* generally accompanies his master, to prepare and present the implements of smoking, and to hold the slippers for him when taking leave. Coffee, without milk or sugar, was next introduced by the servants of our host; one bringing on a tray several fine china cups without handles, each in a fillagree receptacle, silver or silver gilt, of the same form; another man, from a large coffee pot, filled three or four cups; of these MI'RZA' SHEFIA took one and handed it to the Ambassador, who sat on his right. The servants having distributed coffee to every person, collected the empty cups and retired; *caleáns* were again presented; and to them succeeded tea in porcelain cups, larger than those which had contained the coffee, but without

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(14) Of our respective places the order will appear from a plan (if so it may be styled) given in the Miscellaneous Plate, fig. 20.

saucers. After this appeared what in Europe would have constituted the *dessert*, but was here the forerunner of dinner; apples, pears, melons, the grains of pomegranates in bowls, ices and sweetmeats, placed before us on capacious trays. These having been removed, after ten or twelve minutes, preparations were made for the display of a more substantial meal; while from sitting cross-legged on the floor so long, my situation had already become irksome.

The servants now held before us silver basins having covers grated or pierced with open-work in several places; and ewers or *áftábah*, (See Vol. I. p. 405, Miscell. Pl. fig. 13) resembling large coffee pots with spouts, from which they poured on our hands lukewarm water; this, contaminated by each persons washing, fell through the grated covers and disappeared; the basins were then transferred to other guests for the purpose of similar ablutions. Next were spread on the carpet before us, and close to our knees, long narrow *sufreh* or strips of flowered linen or chintz, the *hháshyeh* (جاشیه) or borders of which contained in small compartments, some Persian verses, inculcating hospitality towards strangers, and gratitude to God, for the blessings of abundance. On these strips the bread was placed; it consisted in circular cakes, large as our common dinner-plates, flat and not much thicker than a crown piece. A multitude of servants then entered, bringing various trays which they laid down near the cakes of bread; each tray containing, at first, only five or six bowls

and dishes of lamb, fowl, fish and vegetables, besides two or three ample basins of fine porcelain ware, filled with different sherbets; in each a long handled wooden spoon or ladle, such as has been before described (Vol. II. p. 53) floating on the surface. Those trays were so placed that one accommodated two guests; and between the trays were supernumerary dishes, or lofty pyramids of rice in its various forms, as *chillaw* (چلو) boiled simply; or as *pillaw* (پلو) mixed with meat and fruit, highly seasoned with spices, and enriched with unctuous sauces, at once sweet and acid.

The plan, or sketch, or view (for it is difficult to name rightly such a thing) which, I delineated immediately after my return, will serve perhaps better than any verbal description to introduce the reader into the midst of our entertainment; (See Misc. Pl. fig. 20). Here, near the door, several attendants appear standing within the room; others waiting on the steps without. On the left, of a person entering, are seated the English gentlemen; on the right many Persian guests; and opposite the door, our host, with the *Amín ad douleh* and five or six other men of high rank, *Vazírs* and great officers of state; *MI'RZA' SHERAF* himself, being at the extremity of this row, next to the Ambassador. I have distinguished by oblique strokes the *nammeds* on which we sat from the *sufrehs* or pieces of chintz; these are partly covered with the round trays and intermediate dishes, while the lamps and candlesticks are seen disposed along the floor, but not without symmetry of arrangement. The *shamaadán*.



(شمعدان generally pronounced *shamdoon*) or candlesticks were of silver, and the tallow candles which they contained, very thick and above four feet long; the *cherághdāns* (چراغدان) or lamps were also, apparently, of silver; and their light was supplied by *pieh* (پیه) or grease.

Having laid before us the trays already described as amply furnished, the servants were, nevertheless, employed for a considerable time in loading them with additional bowls and dishes of viands prepared according to various modes of culinary art: these were placed over or between the first, and others over them; so that at last, the pile accumulated on each tray, amounted to fifteen or sixteen; and with the intermediate *pillaws* and *sherbets*, there must, I think, have been, before the conclusion of our feast, above three hundred china bowls and dishes at one moment on the floor (See p. 22. note 3). The variety of viands can scarcely be supposed equal to this multiplicity of dishes. I could easily perceive that the two or three trays nearest on both sides, agreed almost wholly in their contents, with that more immediately before me. The meat was chiefly saturated with oil, or fat liquefied, of which in some instances the unctuousity was corrected by an admixture of vegetable acids.

But of whatever kind the meat or the cookery, many little circumstances of negative and positive inconvenience, concur to render even the most splendid feasts of this country,

tedious, and in some respects disgusting to an European. The want of chairs obliged us to sit on the floor, in awkward attitudes that cramped and benumbed the legs. Being without knives or forks, we necessarily grasped with our fingers not only solid pieces of flesh, but even moist and clammy substances. The want of cups or goblets or drinking glasses rendered it expedient to use the wooden *káshúks* or spoons that floated, as before mentioned, on the sherbet. To those spoons no reasonable objection could be made had the number been sufficient; but one generally served for two guests, and sometimes for three; each, after a draught, replacing it in the bowl. For plates the only substitutes were those flat round cakes of bread already described; of these it did not appear that much was ever eaten; but such bones and fragments were collected on them, as would, in France or England, have been removed during the meal, by a servant. On those cakes of bread, too, I noticed many of the Persians wiping, from time to time, the greasy fingers of their right hands; the left not being employed on these occasions. They, when preparing to eat, stooped forwards, kneeling, until their heads were nearly over some dishes, which the long beards of several almost touched; and I have often been surprised at the ingenuity which they evinced in scooping from a gelatinous mass, with the first finger only, or the first and second united, exactly such a quantity as they required for a mouthful; studiously contriving that their clothes should not be defiled by any particle.

Towards the close of this feast, a lamb, roasted entire, was brought to MÍRZÁ SHEFIA; on his recommendation of it to the Ambassador, two or three servants immediately tore the limbs and joints asunder, using in this simple operation their hands alone; which being stained, according to custom, with the reddish-brown tint of *henna*, excited some suspicion of dirtiness, not perhaps altogether false. With their hands alone, however impure they were or seemed to be, those servants also restored to their places in the bowls and dishes, any meat, fish or rice, that had fallen on the cloth; while their skirts, as they passed to and fro in crowds along the floor, which scarcely afforded room for their feet between the trays and lamps, often flapped against the *pillaws* or into the bowls of *sherbet*. Such trifling accidents were probably inevitable; none more serious occurred; and our venerable host, although a man of impaired vision, had acquired the habit of observing instantaneously and could indicate to his servants by a nod, any little want or embarrassment of a guest, even the most remote, without interrupting for one moment either his own or another person's discourse.

The trays and their contents were at last removed; and next, the chintz *sufrehs* with all the morsels of bread, meat and rice, that had been scattered on them. Basins were then brought and ewers containing lukewarm water strongly impregnated with the perfume of roses; this was poured on our hands as at the former ablution. • *Caleáns* which had

begun, now terminated the feast; and we, having smoked and chatted for a few minutes, took leave of the Persians, received our slippers from the servants who waited near the door, and returned on horseback, as we had gone, by the light of *fánús* or lanterns. The entertainment which I have just described was enlivened, without the help of wine, by facetious anecdotes and sallies of wit; the powers of agreeable conversation MÍRZÁ SHEFIA seemed to possess in a very extraordinary degree; and his manners would have been reckoned easy and polished at any court in Europe.

It had been settled that on the eighth of December Lady Ouseley should pay her respects to the principal or favourite queen; her, at least, whom the king had appointed to receive the presents brought from England; a preference most flattering where rivals were so numerous; for she was surrounded by beauties in a *harem*, which, according to reports not reckoned extravagant, contained eight hundred females of every description; all equally the slaves of one despotick lord, to obtain whose favour was the sole study of their lives<sup>(15)</sup>. At eleven o'clock Lady Ouseley proceeded to the

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(15) Persons who had listened to the whispers of scandal, insinuated that those fair competitors, in their contest for the Monarch's smile, often employed means the most unjustifiable; and had sometimes endeavoured to secure the glorious prize even by the sacrifice of a rival's life. Whether he loved her most who now enjoyed the dangerous rank of favourite, or another beautiful queen (the mother of ABBA'S MÍRZA' and prince A'LÍ SHA'H) was long a question undecided among those who inquired into the

*áreg* or palace, being conveyed in her palankeen by several Persian *feráshes*, who, according to the king's directions, had been previously instructed in the manner of carrying that vehicle; the Indian bearers, unable to endure the cold of this northern climate, having set out on their return to Bombay. She was accompanied, as on a similar occasion, by her daughter; and one of her English maids followed her in a *cajávah*; (See Vol. I. p. 251; Misc. Pl. fig. 16). Many inquiries had previously been made by persons sent from the palace, concerning the kinds of refreshments most pleasing to Lady Ouseley: it was asked whether she usually smoked the *caleán*, or preferred tea to coffee; at the same time the king graciously intimated, that a chair should be provided for her accommodation, although the queen would sit, according to custom on a carpet. At her return Lady Ouseley told us that having been conducted with much ceremony into a large room, of which the floor was covered with cloth of gold, she found there the royal favourite who was a very handsome woman, an infant prince her son, and thirty or forty female attendants, all profusely decorated with jewels. Soon after her introduction, coffee and sweetmeats were presented on trays of solid gold. The queen smoked; but a *caleán* was

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mysteries of the *Harem*. But certain circumstances attending the death of one, which left the other indisputably pre-eminent, excited suspicions that demonstrated, at least, the probability of actions imputed by classical historians to some ancient princesses of this country.

not offered to her visiter, who had declared herself incapable of enjoying the intended honour. The maid was led to an adjoining chamber; where after some refreshment, every article of her dress became the object of minute examination to the ladies in waiting, who evinced as little delicacy in gratifying their curiosity as those of *Shiráz*, before noticed, (Vol. II. p. 53). Meanwhile Lady Ouseley delivered a miniature picture of our Queen Charlotte, and her letter, to the Persian Queen, who received them with much grace and affability; the picture was set in diamonds computed to be worth several thousand pounds; the letter was splendidly illuminated, and a translation had been annexed by the Ambassador. This *zan-i-sháh* (زن شاه) or “king’s wife,” (like one already mentioned) seemed much encumbered by the drawers or pantaloons which she wore; their stiff embroidery of pearls almost crippling her legs. She bestowed many caresses on little Janie during this interview which lasted about half an hour.

MÍRZÁ SHEFIA, with four or five other personages of distinction, paid, on the tenth, a long visit to the Ambassador; they all drank, and appeared to relish highly, some essence of peppermint diluted with water. MÍRZÁ SHEFIA had heard, or read, and talked much to us, of a certain miraculous medicine that could not only remove all corporeal infirmities, but restore to extreme old age, the powers of active and vigorous youth. He conversed also on literature;



and antiquities; contriving to introduce a very flattering compliment to me on the subject of some translations which I had made, several years before, from the Persian language; and of which ABÚL' HASSAN KHÁN had, too favourably, spoken to him. In the mean time, although a month had now elapsed since our arrival at *Tehrán*, no progress had been made in the work of negotiation; nor could the Ambassador, either by his example or remonstrances, stimulate the *Vazírs*, or accelerate the tardy process of Persian diplomacy. They seemed inclined to procrastinate, and glad of any circumstance that served as a pretence for delay; every hunting party of the king furnished them with a plausible excuse; for in his absence, they said, no business could possibly be transacted. These excursions were frequent, as FATEH ÁLI SHÁH, like most members of the *Kajár* family, and of other northern tribes, preferred an erratick to a settled life; a village to a city, and a tent to a palace. Although much snow had fallen about this time at *Tehrán*, several antelopes (*áhú*, اهوه) and mountain goats (*buz*, بز) were killed by the king; and we partook, at dinner on the twelfth, of some excellent venison, part of the royal *shikár* (شكار) or game, sent as a present to the Ambassador.

We were introduced on the thirteenth to HASSAN ALI MÍRZÁ (حسن علي ميرزا), younger brother (by the same mother) of HUSEIN ALI MÍRZÁ, the prince of *Shiráz*. He asked many questions on various subjects, and inquired after

his "uncle" the king of England. The Ambassador having mentioned the Prince of Wales, he said it was the auspicious *tália* (طالع) or fortunate destiny of the Persian Monarch, to have such a *beráder-zádeh* (برادرزاده) or nephew. We sat with him about twenty minutes, and retired, observing the usual ceremonies, through a small court and garden of which the walls exhibited, in arched recesses or niches, the painted representations of cypress trees.

Next day we visited MÍRZÁ ABD ALWEHÁB (میرزا عبد الوهاب) a man of distinguished learning; eminent for his skill in divinity, metaphysics, the Arabick language, and for the exquisite beauty of his penmanship; we found him prepared to receive us in a room well warmed with a large *mankal* (منقل) or chafing-dish of burning charcoal (See Misc. Pl. fig. 19). I had before remarked that amidst crowded companies he generally appeared absorbed in mental devotion or meditation; his head inclining to one side and his eyes closed; on this occasion, however, he evinced the most polite attention, and his conversation was equally pleasing as instructive; he talked of books and of geography; made many inquiries on the subject of theology, (the *ilm illahi* علم الاهی or "divine science") and the various sects of different religions; wishing that all mankind were of the same faith; he declared his intention of seeking knowledge at a new source by studying English; and mentioned that he was engaged in the composition of a miscellaneous work, which he proposed to entitle

the *Ganjineh i Neshát* (كنجینه نشاط) or "Treasury of Delight." Respecting the *Turki* (ترکی) or *Tátár* (تاتار) language, he said that it comprised two principal dialects; the *Turki Jaghatái* (ترکی جغتای) which he considered as the *asıl* (اصل) of pure original tongue; and the *Turki Rúmí* (ترکی رومی) spoken at Constantinople; and throughout all Greece and Asia Minor; derived from the *Jaghatái*, but corrupted with a multiplicity of Arabick, Persian and *Iúnáni* (یونانی Greek or Ionian) words. A topick on which MÍ'RZA' ABD AL WEHA'B was particularly eloquent, must not here be omitted; the late French Embassy, a numerous body of very ingenious men, had furnished him with one favourite subject of encomium, Monsieur Lamy, a gentleman whose praises I have heard celebrated by many other Persians.

We proceeded to the house of FARAGE ALLAH KHAN (فرج الله خان) a nobleman of military habits; with much apparent frankness of character, and a simplicity of manner, whether real or affected, nearly bordering on bluntness; he began, however, like the most insincere of his countrymen, by offering to the Ambassador, his house and garden as a gift, or *pishkash* (پیشکش). Knowing the person whom we had last visited, he proclaimed aloud his own consummate ignorance of metaphysicks, theology and philosophy; muttered something about his contempt of hypocrisy and the cant of pedantry; "all abstruse sciences, said he, I leave to such persons as my friend ABD AL WEHA'B; the sword and musket are

“sufficient for me. Returning at night from court, I seat  
 “myself in this corner, and direct the *khánendeh* (خواننده)  
 “*sázendeh* (سازنده) and *raks-kunán* (رقصکنان) the vocal and  
 “instrumental musicians, and the dancers, to amuse me until  
 “I fall asleep; of what value is all the learning of *MÍRZA’*  
 “*ABD AL WEHA’B*? I prefer the sounds of a *sehtáreh* (سپتاره)  
 “or *Kamáncheh* (کمانچه) a guitar or violin.” He then iron-  
 ically poured blessings on those pious *Muselmáns* who reli-  
 giously abstained from wine; and with much humour censured  
 all drunkards; the health of some men, he was willing to  
 allow, claimed in this respect a little indulgence; and for his  
 own part, the grapes of *Shíráz* had furnished him with medi-  
 cines during three and thirty years. To gratify *MÍRZA’*  
*SHEFIA* he had lately forsworn them, but his spirits began  
 to suffer a considerable depression and now required exhi-  
 laration; *ABU’L HASSAN KHA’N* had mentioned to him some  
*shráb* (شراب) or wine of Madeira *chehel sáleh* (چهل ساله)  
 “forty years old,” which the Ambassador had brought to  
*Tehrán*; of this he plainly hinted that a few bottles would  
 be a most acceptable present. He generally spoke in Turk-  
 ish to his servants, and was, as I learned from one of his  
 acquaintances, a kind and gentle master; his favourite attend-  
 ant seemed to be a young Russian who assisted in handing  
 us the *caleáns* and coffee; him he always addressed by some  
 very coarse and opprobrious term; often styling him *Kurmsák*  
 (a word explained in Vol. II. p. 542) or *Káferbacheh* (کافر بچه)  
 “offspring of an infidel.” Entertained by his pleasantry

and impressed with favourable sentiments of his good nature, we left FARAGE ALLAH KHA'N; he was not, however, without enemies; and some talked of cruelties lately perpetrated by his order near *Tabríz*, where many villages had been burnt and the unresisting inhabitants massacred.

We returned, after this, the visit of MOHAMMED A'LI KHA'N, the *Vazír* or minister of Prince A'LI SHA'H; he mentioned some extraordinary mineral productions which he had observed near *Cáshán*; and a rock in the same neighbourhood exhibiting seventy wells, or pits, of which he was not able, with a long stick and his extended arm to reach the bottom; he spoke also of other wonders visible at this place; but from his description I could not ascertain whether they should be classed among natural or artificial curiosities. When we admired the extreme delicacy and elegant forms of his sherbet spoons, he assured us that he had once possessed many of which the bowls, although elastick, were much more flexible; thin as paper, and nearly transparent; and that he had seen the leaves of a book made from similar materials, *chúb-i-gulábi* (چوب گلابی) or pear-tree wood. He shewed us a piece of sculpture very ingeniously executed on ivory by a young and self-taught artist; it represented in relief, the present king's portrait, and some other figures, among which were Armenian *Pádrés* or priests with the hog or *guráz* (گراز), usually delineated by Persians who hold that creature in abhorrence, as an ensign of the Christian religion.

This minister complained that no one could be found in *Tehrán* capable of repairing and regulating his three French watches. We had heard complaints on the same subject in every other part of the country.

The next visit was that which we paid to *MĪ'RZA' MU'SA* (میرزا موسی) a native of *Mázenderán*, and governor of *Gílán* (گیلان). This province, situate on the shores of the Caspian sea, he described as covered with trees, astonishingly numerous, but not of considerable size; and he contradicted some who had affirmed that the fish, which constituted a principle article of diet there, was unwholesome food. Of *Astrakhan*, he said, the Persian name was *Hashtarkhán*<sup>(16)</sup>; and his account of the difficulties which opposed a traveller among the stupendous mountains, the forests and torrents of *Mázenderán* (or Hyrcania) almost extinguished the desire that I had long felt, and shook my resolution of exploring that region on a journey to the Caspian sea. The room wherein *MĪ'RZA' MU'SA'* received us was decorated with several pictures of beautiful Georgian women, in various dresses, and of one effeminate boy.



<sup>(16)</sup> From other Persians I learned that the name was sometimes written هشترخوان (*Hásh tarkhuán*), but more correctly حاجي ترخوان (*Haji tarkhuán*). The name, however, is spelt حاجي ترخان on a silver coin described in Mr. Fraehn's "Numophylacium Orientale Pototianum," p. 58. This work, of which but a few copies were circulated, is remarkable as the first Latin book printed in the University press at Casan; for we read p. 75, "preli latini Universitatis Casanensis primitiæ sunt;" it was published in 1813.



Two other visits must yet be recorded; one we made at the house of MI'RZA' YU'SUF (میرزا یوسف), who entertained us chiefly with a discourse on vaccination, and his dread of the small pox; a disease by which his son, (nine years of age) had lost one eye. He told the Ambassador, to whose infant daughter the cow-pox had lately been communicated, that after his example he should send another child next day to the English surgeon for inoculation. But he was induced, by the prejudices of his wives, to reject any innovation; and by the bigotry of some *Mulás* or Mahommedan priests, to refuse even a blessing from the hands of Christians; the small pox was at this time fatal to hundreds; his child soon after took it, and died.

Our series of ceremonious visits terminated at the house of MI'RZA' ZEKI', fourth *Vazír* or minister of state; him I have before mentioned as the Ambassador's *Mehmándár*, who accompanied us from *Shíráz* to *Isfahán*. He related an anecdote which served to exalt the *Amín ad doulah's* character, already very high, in our estimation. It appeared that within a few days, the king by a command indicating some displeasure, had required his son HUSEIN ALI MI'RZA' prince of *Shíráz*, to attend immediately at the court of *Tehrán*. So much had *Fárs*, the province governed by this prince, been impoverished during the oppressive administration of NEBBI KHA'N, that he found it impossible to raise one hundred thousand *tumáns*, due to the royal treasury; there was still a

deficiency of twenty thousand, without which he feared to present himself before the king. Yet as the order for his appearance was peremptory, he had set out, bringing with him (as some said) the queen his mother, once a favourite of FATEH A'LI SHA'H, that she might intercede for her son. He, meanwhile, recollecting the *Amin ad douleh's* many generous acts, wrote a letter to this minister, expressing regret for having on former occasions been his enemy; stating the pecuniary embarrassment, and requesting the loan of twenty thousand *tumáns*, for which sum he inclosed a formal bond. This deed the *Amin ad douleh* sent back with a polite answer to the prince, and instantly declared himself responsible for the twenty thousand *tumáns*.

Returning from MI'RZA' ZEKI's house, we met in a narrow street some of the king's elephants; our horses seemed in general much alarmed, and many of them which were Arabian, absolutely trembled with fear at the sight of those enormous quadrupeds.

About this time a poor man who had before solicited employment in the Ambassador's service, came to my room, along with his wife and daughter, intreating that I should recommend them to Lady Ouseley; the woman was muffled in her *cháder* (چادر), but not so completely as to conceal age and ugliness; the little girl, seven or eight years old, was pretty, and without a veil; she presented me an orange; the father

a common flower; and the mother an apple on which had been impressed the form of a leaf, resembling our fern<sup>(17)</sup>; all these were the prelude to their request; the child stared with wonder and apparent delight at the painted walls of my apartment, and still more at some drawings which I was then finishing; my writing-desk, camp-bed, and other European articles of furniture; while the woman, to interest me in her behalf, swore with strange inconsistency, *be ser i Ali* (بسر علي) “by the head of A’LI” that in her heart she was a Christian.

Our servants on the 25th of December, having learned that we solemnized Christmas day, presented to many of us, flowers, oranges and sweetmeats, with the congratulations and wish, thus expressed on such occasions among themselves, *Ide-i-shumá mubárek báshed* (عید شما مبارک باشد) “may your festival be auspicious!” And these words we heard a thousand times interchanged on the 27th, when the Persians celebrated their *Ide-i-kurbán* (عید قربان) or “festival of the sacrifice,” which was announced by drums and trumpets early in the morning; several guns were fired at noon, and multitudes of people flocked outside the city walls to the *Kurbán gáh* (قربان گاه) or “place of sacrifice,” where a camel was killed

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(17) Apples thus marked are sold in the bazars for a trifle; to make this impression, a leaf of some flower or shrub is glued or fastened with a thread on several parts of the fruit while yet growing; the apple gradually ripens, and all that the sun reaches becomes red; the parts covered by the leaves remaining of a pale green or yellow colour.

with the usual formalities, in commemoration of the victim substituted by Abraham for his own son.

The new year (1812) commenced with the arrival of a *kásed* (كاسد) or messenger from *Búshehr* who brought letters announcing the great success of our arms in various parts of the East Indies, and, particularly, the capture of Java.

We now from our house distinctly heard, almost every hour of the night, various sounds of musical instruments and voices of singers, in different quarters of the town. Although extremely active in preventing riots, and prompt in arresting those who walk the streets after a certain time; the officers of police allow the inhabitants to indulge at home in convivial amusements. Those nocturnal feasts cause no fatigue to those who sleep during a great portion of the day; and “the Persians,” as Dr. Johnson observes, (in *Rasselas*) “are a “nation eminently social.” When a moment can be stolen from care or business, they sit on the flat roofs or in the chambers of their houses with musicians and dancers, frequently drinking wine to excessive inebriation, and perfectly heedless of tomorrow; happy in this “blindness to the future,” there are not many who ever seem to recollect the precarious tenure by which they hold their properties and lives. At this time weddings were more than commonly numerous; several of the *arúsis* (عروسي) or nuptial processions passed by our gate; the bride, whom several women conducted to a

bath adjoining, appeared always wrapped in a white sheet; having on her head a reddish coloured veil, or handkerchief; before her went six or eight men with pipes and drums; and some *lúties* or buffoons, and boys dancing with uncouth and ridiculous gestures; the gay train was closed by the young couple's friends and relations. The people were now eager for festive enjoyments as they anticipated the gloomy days of *Muhharrem* (محرم); when to honour the memory of HUSEIN and HASSAN, the martyred sons of A'LÍ, every pleasure must be suspended, and all assume the outward garb of sorrow.

On the third of January, a young sepoy dragoon died; his disease was an affection of the liver which did not, however, evince itself by any symptoms until the day before his death; and Sir Gore Ouseley whose health had lately suffered two attacks, was now reduced to an alarming state of weakness. The king sent A'BU'L HASSAN KHAN to inquire after him and requested that Mr. Cormick the surgeon might attend at the palace with a daily report of his situation.

Soon after this, prince HUSEIN A'LÍ MÍ'RZA' arrived from *Shíráz*; and on the 14th we paid him our respects; he declared himself much pleased to see us again; talked of the great benefit that his teeth and gums had derived from a dentifrice (of pulverised charcoal) which Mr. Sharp had given him; and affected considerable satisfaction at being once more an inmate at his father's court; although we knew how reluc-