



A VOYAGE

Round the WORLD,

By Dr. John Francis Gemelli Careri.

PART I.

Containing the most Remarkable Things he saw in
TURKRY.

BOOK III.

CHAP. I.

The Chronology and Succession of the Ottoman Monarchy.

Gemelli.
1694.

Osman,
Ottoman.

Orcanes.

THeir Opinion is very probable, who will have this powerful Nation to derive its Original from the vast Woods near the *Palus Maotis*, because of the great plenty of Game those Woods afford, which is their usual Sustenance.

The first that laid the Foundation of this mighty Monarchy was *Osman*, call'd *Ottoman*; a bold and daring Man, by Birth a *Tartar*, and Soldier under the Great *Cham*. He, offended at some Wrongs done him, went into *Cappadocia* to Live by Robbing, with sixty Followers, infesting all the Country about. Others allur'd by hopes of Plunder, or despairing of Pardon for the Crimes they had committed, joyn'd him; so that growing by degrees more Powerful and Formidable, and having taken several Cities, he made himself Master of *Cappadocia*, *Pontus*, *Bithynia*, *Pamphilia*, and *Cilicia*. This some say hapned in the Year 1300. He Reign'd eighteen Years.

His Son *Orcanes* succeeded him, who taking the same Measures, not only kept what his Father had left him, but made
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king his advantage of the intestine Broils, between the Emperors of *Constantinople*, subdu'd *Misia*, *Lycaonia*, *Phrigia*, *Caria* and *Nicea*. He Reign'd 36 Years.

Amurat, a great Master in the Art of Dissembling, or Reigning, succeeded his Father *Orcanes*. He in 1363, took *Gallipoli* in *Thrace*, and after it *Adrianople*, *Misia*, *Servia*, and *Bulgaria*; but being at last Vanquish'd and Slain by *Lazarus* Despot of *Servia*, he ended his base Life after a Reign of 31 Years; leaving two Sons, *Solyman* and *Bajazeth*.

Bajazeth having Murder'd his Brother, subdu'd all *Thrace*, *Thessaly*, *Macedon*, *Phocis*, *Attica*, and *Bosnia*. Then he held *Constantinople* eight Years Besieg'd; but finding an obstinate Resistance, he rais'd the Siege to give Battle to the Christian Princes, whom he overthrew. Then returning to the Siege, and having after three Years Prosecuting of it almost reduc'd the Place to a necessity of Surrendring, his Design was disappointed by *Tamerlan*, the Great *Cham* of *Tartary*. For he Marching out of his
N Coun-

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Country, and wasting *Asia* with Fire and Sword; *Bajazeth* with much Reason thought it convenient to leave the Siege to oppose that Torrent, and meet him on the Confines of *Galaria* and *Bithynia*. There coming to a Battle the wretched *Bajazeth* was otherthrown, in the Year 1397, with the Loss of 200000 Men, and thrust loaded with Chains into a Cage; where despairing of ever recovering his Liberty, he beat out his own Brains against the Bars. He Reign'd twelve Years and a half, leaving three Sons, *Calapin*, *Mahomet* and *Mustapha*.

Mahomet
the First.

Calapin, or *Alpin*, was put to Death by his Brother *Mahomet* the First, who ascending the Throne conquer'd *Valachia*, and *Macedonia*; fixing his Court at *Adrianople*. He Dy'd in 1422, having Reign'd seventeen Years.

Amurat
the Second.

Amurat the Second, next mounted the Throne. He passing over into *Thrace* by the Assistance of the *Genoeses*, overthrew his Uncle *Mustapha*; and then *Vladislaus*, King of *Poland* and *Hungary* breaking the Peace at the perswasion of Pope *Eugenius* the Fourth, he paid the *Genoeses* 100000 Crowns for liberty to pass over into *Europe* at *Gallipoli*, and accordingly wasted over his whole Army. He fought three Days incessantly, and at length *Vladislaus* being kill'd remain'd Victorious, always reproaching the Christians with breach of Faith. When *Amurat* had Reign'd thirty Years he Dy'd at *Bruggia*, the Seat of his Empire.

Mahomet
the Second.

Mahomet the Second succeeded him. He having Tyrannically Establish'd himself on the Throne, by the Murder of his Brother, reduc'd *Constantinople* about the Year 1435. on the 30th of May. Then he Conquer'd *Bulgaria*, *Dalmatia*, *Croatia*, *Trabezond*, and *Theodocia*, a City belonging to the *Genoeses*, now call'd *Cassa*. He Dy'd in 1481, when he had Reign'd 31 Years, and Liv'd 58, leaving two Sons, *Bajazeth* and *Zizismus*.

Bajazeth
the Second.

Bajazeth the Second, having Expell'd his Brother, Conquer'd several Countries in 32 Years he Reign'd.

Selimus.

Selim the First, his Son ascended the Throne, subdu'd a great part of *Egypt*, and returning to *Constantinople* Dy'd in 1520, when he had Reign'd eight Years, and Liv'd 46.

Soliman.

Soliman succeeded him, and subdu'd *Belgrade*, *Rhodes*, *Gran*, and *Buda*. He Dy'd in the 47th Year of his Reign.

Selimus
the Second.

After him came *Selimus* the Second, who took *Cyprus* from the *Venetians*, but

the Christians gain'd the famous Victory over him at *Lepanto*.

The next was *Amurat* the Third, and then *Mahomet* the Third, who came to the Empire embruing his Hands in the Blood of several Brothers.

Amurat 3.
Mahomet

Then came *Achmet*, and then his Brother *Mustapha*, who was Depos'd, and *Osman* set up; and he being Unfortunate in the War against the *Poles*, and endeavouring to curb the Insolency of the *Fanizaries*, was at procurement of the *Muphti*, Murder'd by them.

Achmet,
Mustapha,
Osman.

Mustapha was taken out of Prison and restor'd to the Throne, but his ill Fate, after a Years time, sent him again into Prison, the Subjects deposing him for Inability.

Achmet the Second, Brother to *Osman* succeeded, at the Age of Fourteen; after whom Reign'd *Amurat* the Fourth, who Dy'd at *Constantinople* in 1640, at the Age of Thirty Three.

Achmet
the 2d.
Amurat
the 4th.

Ibrahim, the first of the Name succeeded his Brother *Amurat*, and in 1645. made War on the *Venetians* and Knights of *Malta*. In the Island of *Candia* he fought with various Success. He was at last Murder'd by his rebellious Subjects, who not long before had kill'd the *Grand Vizier*, this was in the Year 1648.

Ibrahim.

Mahomet the Fourth, came next to the Empire at sixteen Years of Age. He tho' so Young continu'd the War with the *Venetians*, without ever giving Ear to any Accommodation till in the Year 1672, he had made himself Master of *Candia*, the Metropolis of that Island; after which he concluded a Peace, the *Venetians* continuing Possess'd of some Places in the same Island. Growing weary of the long Peace with the Empire, at the Perswasion of his Prime Minister, he made War on the Emperor, laying Siege to *Vienna* in 1683, with a formidable Army of 300000 Fighting Men; and after some Weeks vigorous Attacks reduc'd it to such a Condition, that it must have fallen into his Hands, had it not been reliev'd by the powerful *Polish* and *German* Armies, which rais'd the Siege, with the Defeat of the *Ottoman* Forces. This prov'd the Ruin of the *Turks*, who the following Campaigns lost *Buda* and all *Hungary*. The Souldiery, and *Muphti* imputing all these Losses to the Unfortunate *Mahomet* the Fourth, they Depos'd and Imprison'd him, and his two Sons *Mustapha* and *Harmet*, the first

Mahomet
the 4th.



first 24, the other 11 Years of Age.
Gemelli. *Mahomet* Reign'd 39 Years.

1694. In this Place they set up *Hamet* the
Hamet the Second, after he had been forty Years a
2d. Prisoner, who being unexperienc'd in
warlike Affairs did not at all recover the

Monarchy, nor did his Reign continue
long, tho' he kept at *Adrianople* for fear
of the *Janizaries*.

His Successor was *Mustapha* the Second
now Reigning. *Mustapha*
the 2d.

CHAP. II.

The Author's Voyage on the Black Sea to Trabezond.

HAVING recover'd my Liberty, as I
said above, which cost me 46 *Pia-*
stres, laid out in a Vest of Brocard I
gave the Captain *Bassa*; I embark'd on
Wednesday 7th, aboard a *Saick*, belong-
ing to a *Rais*, or Master, call'd *Agi-Mu-*
stapha, thinking every Hour an Age till
I got out of that to me unfortunate Ci-
ty. I lay aboard that Night, because
my Landlord understanding I had been
Prisoner in the Bath, would not enter-
tain me any longer, looking on me as a
dangerous Man. *Maunday-Thursday* 8th,
we did not Sail, because the *Rais* had
Business, and I went ashore to visit the
Holy Sepulchres. *Good-Friday* 9th, I
Din'd with Monsieur *Mener*, bid him
Adieu, and thank'd him for all Favours
receiv'd. *Holy-Saturday* 10th, I per-
form'd my Devotions, and took leave of
Friends; and *Sunday* 11th, being *Easter-*
Day in the Morning, the *Saick* left the
Port of *Constantinople* in such haste, that
I had not time to hear Mass. Having
run nine Miles to the Village of *Gregni-*
Chioy, the *Rais* put in there for Water,
and continu'd there all Day, the Wind
coming up contrary.

Monday 12th, we set out with little
Wind, which afterwards turning to a
dead Calm, the *Saick* was tow'd by its
Skiff, and at last was drawn with Ropes
from the Shoar as far as *Umuriar*, five
Miles distant. Going up here to the top
of the Hill, to see the Mouth of the
Black Sea; as I came down, a *Turkish*
Shepherd ask'd me, why I went thither,
and understanding by Signs, that he said
I was viewing the Country; my last
Sufferings having taught me Experience,
I made haste aboard the *Saick*. *Tuesday*
13th, the Wind coming up fair, we
Sail'd at break of Day, and two Hours
after entred the Black Sea. All the way
between the first and second Castles, the
Shoars of the Streight are no less Popu-
lous and Pleasant than those from *Con-*

stantinople to the first; for on the side
of *Natolia* are the Villages of *Calignia*,
Cibucli, *Erigerli*, *Beicos*, and *Cavach*;
and on that of *Romelia*, *Stegni*, *Gnegni-*
Chioy, *Tarabia*, *Bayuch-dare*, and *Sanjar*;
with good Pleasure-Houses and Gardens
between them, which make the Prospect
of them agreeable.

The second Castles are worse than the
first, for that on the side of *Europe* has
but two little Towers on the Plain, and
very weak Curtains; and the other in
Asia near *Cavach*, is a square Tower;
both without Cannon. On the top of
the Hill, half a Mile distant, stood a
Castle, whose Out-works reach'd to the
other, but its Walls are all ruin'd.

On both the opposite Points of the
Streight there are Light-Houses, and
small Dwellings. Near that on the
side of *Romelia* on a Rock, is the re-
mainder of the Pedestal of *Pompey's* Pil-
lar.

We made but little way on *Wednesday*
14th, the Wind being contrary, but it
coming up fair on *Thursday* 15th, we
coasted along *Natolia*, and at Night
were opposite to *Ergele*, where is a good
Port, a rarity in the Black Sea. The
same Wind continuing till two Hours in
the Night, those drowsy Brutes furl'd
their Sails, and making fast the Helm
laid them down to Sleep, leaving the
Saick to rock upon the Waves.

The same Wind blew again on *Thurs-*
day 16th, carrying us about twelve Miles
an Hour, and at Noon came up with
the other *Saick* that made the same Voy-
age with us, and carry'd above 150
Soldiers and Servants of the *Bassa* of
Trabezond, who was gone before with 25
of his Family in six small *Felucca's*, car-
rying with him six Horses, besides as
many more aboard the *Saick*. The Coun-
try that appears along the Sea, is most
Mountainous, and abounding in Chest-
nuts, Hazle-nuts, and Apples, to fur-



with *Constantinople*, and several Neighbouring Provinces.

1694. *Saturday* 17th, the Wind came up directly contrary, so that we had much ado to put into *Cape Sinope*, for fresh Water. Weighing betimes on *Sunday* Morning, we pass'd in sight of the City *Sinope*, seated on the Eastermost part of a Point of Land, with a high Mountain near it. A thick Fog which held till Evening, hindred our View of the pleasant Coast. So the Storm that rose was the cause we made little way in the Day, but the Wind coming fair in the Evening, we advanc'd considerably till Midnight.

Monday 19th, a great Rain fell, after which the Wind was so fair, that we made a great Run the Night following. The same Wind and Rain continu'd *Tuesday* 20th, which set us very forward. The *Bassa's* Family was wash'd from Head to Foot; and I admir'd the Patience of the *Turks*, who rather than give a *Zecchine* for a Cabin, are content to be expos'd to the Weather, like so many Beasts. In other Respects they were Persons of good Behaviour, who convers'd with me civilly, both during the Passage, and my stay at *Trabezond*; nor was I wanting to shew them more Courtesy, that I might make use of their Friendships if I had need; and particularly to recover my Baggage out of the Hands of the *Rais Lester*.

The same Rain and rough Sea continu'd all Night, and *Wednesday* 21st till Noon, carrying us within three Miles of *Trabezond*; but there it fail'd, and in the Evening was contrary, so that we were forced to have the *Saick* tow'd by its Skiff. I still bless'd the two Crowns and a half I had given for my Cabin, for I could not have endur'd the Weather; but he that hir'd it to me, at last rais'd a Knavish Controversy, asking more than we had agreed for before the Interpreter, and Monsieur *Mener*. Yet I satisfy'd him with a small Matter, notwithstanding he had found out two *Tartar* false Witnesses, who depos'd they had heard me make the Bargain as he said.

All the *Bassa's* Retinue stay'd aboard that Night; but I, who long'd to be out of the *Turkish* Territories, went ashore immediately, and to the little *Hospitium* the *Jesuits* had settled there within three Years, for the conveniency of their Missions. There I found *F. Villor* Superior of the Mission of *Armenia*, with three Companions, and the *Dominican* all clad

after the *Armenian* Fashion. They were very glad to see me deliver'd out of Prison, and safe arriv'd after three Days Storm, and a Voyage of 900 Miles. And certainly we had Perish'd, but that the *Enxine* Sea, whose Circumference is 5000 Miles, its length 1100, and the breadth 200, and where most 400, is not so boisterous as the open Sea, as some pretend. I also found my Equipage recover'd by the Fathers, and carry'd to their House, which compleated my Joy.

The Fathers told me what they had suffer'd during their Voyage. Imbarking aboard the second *Saick*, as was said before, they were carry'd to *Unia*, 500 Miles from *Trabezond*, coming whence in small Boats they were in danger of being Lost; and at last they were taken up for the Tribute, and put into the Hands of the Master of the Boat, for him to give an Account of them to the Receiver at *Trabezond*, to decide whether the *French* ought to pay or not; and this because they falsly alledg'd, That their King had broke the Peace with the *Grand Signior*; but the *Cadi* declar'd they were not oblig'd to Pay. That Night, out of excess of Joy we Drank together Merrily, congratulating our Safety, and forgetting past Sufferings.

Trabezond, by the *Turks* call'd *Tarabassan*, is seated in the Latitude of 42 Degrees, on the utmost Bank of the Black Sea, and at the foot of a Mountain, that looks towards the North. Its whole Circumference is but a Mile, but its large Suburbs make up room for 20000 Inhabitants. It is an Archiepiscopal See, and Metropolis of *Cappadocia*, a Province between the lesser *Asia*, and greater *Armenia*. When the Empire of *Constantinople* was destroy'd, the *Greeks* chose this Place for the Seat of their Empire, but it was not lasting; for the Family of *Lascari* having Reign'd there 200 Years, that is from 1261. till 1460, at length in the Reign of *David*, it was taken and destroy'd by *Mahomet* the Second, Emperor of the *Turks*. At present they call it the head of the Province *Genich*, or *Jenich*. It was rendred the more famous by the Martyrdom of forty faithful Soldiers, who were put to Death in a frozen Lake by the Command of *Licinius*; as also for the Birth of *George Trapezuntius*, a most Learned Man, who Dy'd in the Year 1486, at ninety Years of Age; and of *Bessarion*, who for his Excellent Wit and Learning,

Trabezond
City.



Gemelli.
1694. ing, was by Pope *Eugene* the Fourth made Cardinal, and Patriarch of *Constantinople*.

Trabezond has not only suffer'd many Calamities in past Ages, but even in this present; for in 1617, the *Russians* crossing over the Black Sea, Plunder'd and Burnt it; as they did *Sinope* and *Caffa* Cities seated upon the same Sea. So many Disasters may sufficiently persuade that nothing of its antient Splendor remains; it being now more like a Village than an Imperial City; so that it looks like a Wood inhabited, every House having a large Garden, with Olive and other Fruit-Trees, besides some Fields intermixt.

Citadels. *Thursday* 22d, I observ'd that the City has two small Citadels; one on a Mountain commanded by a *Chiaus*; the other on the Plain, being sometimes the place of Abode of the *Bassa* or *Beglerbeg*, who Governs the City without any *Sangiack* under him. They have both weak Garrisons, and little Cannon; and if the Towns-men upon occasion do not take up Arms, they can make but a small Defence.

Provisions. *Friday* 23d, I took notice the Suburbs were for the most part inhabited by *Armenians* and *Greeks*, with their Bishops, for the Exercise of their Religion. Provisions are dear, to what they are in other Parts of the *Turkish* Dominions, and not good neither, especially the Bread; the Neighbouring Villages furnishing Wheat, both the Hills and Plain about the City being Barren; and the high Mountains cover'd with Snow cause more Cold than Plenty. Flesh is to be found in the Market only some few Months in the Year; and Fish is never to be seen, because the City has no Port, but an open Shoar, expos'd to the inconstancy of the Sea, which renders the little Fishing there is very Difficult. Of all the Land produces, only the Oil is good; and the Wine indifferent; other sorts of Fruit for Pleasure are sent in from the Villages further off. They keep their Oil and Wine in Earthen Vessels, and rack off the Liquor from one to another with Cranes made of Canes.

Custom-House. The Custom-House of *Trabezond* is not severe, for they never search'd my Equipage, nor the Fathers, so that any thing may be carry'd into the City. But mistrusting lest the Officers on the way might give me some Trouble, I went of my own accord, without being call'd, on *Saturday* 24th, to the Customer, for

a *Tascare*, or Billet. He would know what I paid at *Constantinople*, and take my Word for it; and I telling him that all I had being but a few Trifles, I paid four *Piastres*; he took the same of me, besides a Prospective-Glass I presented him with.

The *Bassa's* Family was maintain'd several Days at the Expence of the poor *Greeks* and *Armenians*, who are to make a good Contribution when the *Bassa* himself Arrives; nor does this Exempt them from the Pole-Tax; and it is a dismal Thing to hear their Complaints, they being to Earn all that Money by their Labour and Industry. The worst of it was, that Provisions were then at the Dearest, it being the Month of *Ramaden*, or the *Turkish* Fast, when they make amends for the Abstinence of the Day by their Gormandizing at Night, spending most of it in Eating of the Best.

Sunday 25th, after hearing Mass, I went to see the low Citadel. It is seated on a Rock, with a double Wall, and deep Ditch, and by its Building it appears to be antienter than the other.

My *Rais Lester*, refusing to give me the *Tascare* of *Constantinople*, and I on that Account demurring to pay the Freight for my Goods, we went on *Monday* 26th, before the *Cadi* to decide the Controversy; and it was given for him, because he brought the *Cadi* in his *Saick*.

Whilst we Diverted our selves with the *Jesuits*, we provided to set out for *Arzerum* with the first Caravan. In order to it we hir'd Horses for a *Zecchine* a-piece (which in *Christendom* would perhaps have cost ten Crowns) for eleven Days Journey; laying half a Load, besides the Rider on each, after the Custom of the East, and so the Fathers and I did. Travelling is very Cheap in the *Turkish* Dominions, Provisions being at reasonable Rates on the Road; but on the other hand there is the inconvenience of Lodging in the *Caravanseras*, where nothing is to be had, every Thing being to be Bought elsewhere, and Dress'd there. The *Turks* carry all sorts of Utensils for the Kitchen of Brass, and very Neat.

Our Company was made up of *F. Villor*, a *Lorrainer*, Superior of *Arzerum*, Re-establish'd in his Mission, by express Command of the *Grand Signior*, two Years after he had been Expell'd by the *Bassa*, (like those of *Trabezond*, at the Instigation of the Schismatick *Greeks* and *Arme-*

Armenians; of F. Dalmatus of Auvergne, who was going Missioner into the Province of Sciamaki in Persia; of F. Martin of Guienne, who was to reside at Ispahan, on the same Account; and of F.

Dominick of Bologna, a Dominican, design'd for the same Religious employ in the Monastery of Naxivan; F. Lau of the Country about Lions staying at Trebizond to exercise the same function.

CHAP. III.

The Author's Journey to Arzerum, or Erzerum.

Tuesday 27, I set out after Dinner, with the aforefaid Fathers, and a good Caravan. After four Hours of Mountain and Dirty way, we lodg'd at the high Caravanfera of Oreglan, where we lay in the open Air, with the Noise of the great River close by, and of Wild Dogs that run about the Mountains in Troops.

Wednesday 28th, At break of Day we proceeded on our Journey leafurly over dreadful Mountains, and having Travell'd 24 Miles in nine Hours, stay'd at the Caravanfera of Cuscan, so convenient that the Sky covers very many. This was not the most beaten Road, but us'd in Winter; because that of Agagi-baschi, which is shorter by two Days Journey, is impracticable by reason of the Snow; for which reason, when we came from Trabexond we left it, passing over the Bridge on the left, where the Custom-house Officers use to be.

Thursday 29th, We went on over high and uncouth Mountains cover'd with Snow, and thick of Fir-trees; and mounted so high that at the latter end of the Day, we found our selves almost in the 2d Region of the Air, on the top of Mount Zigana. There the Wind uses to be so violent, that two Years before this time Calolicos passing the same way to his Government of Trabexond, in February, lost about ten of his Retinue, stiff'd with the Wind and Snow. F. Villot to confirm this, told me that he passing over there 5 Years before with F. Vanderman, a Flemming, this last lost the use of his Tongue through the excessive cold, staying behind in the Snow, without being able to follow the Caravan; but that he recover'd with chewing Cloves, and therefore ever since the Missioners call that the Mountain of Cloves. F. Dalmatus being out of Patience on the top of this Hill, being quite spent with labour of climbing afoot, broke out into these Words. Come hither Gentlemen of the Propaganda, and see what a condition we are in here.

And a few steps further. Come along you who do not give a Penny; whereas we come upon the Alms of France; and I am satisfy'd you'll give all you are worth to be at home again. As he repeated these words, I smil'd, and the more to tempt him, said, Do you think that coming to the Mission in the Levant, is like taking a walk in the Tuilleries at Paris, or at Monsieurs Pallace? To save my self the pains I would not alight, but went up a Horse-back, in danger of breaking my Neck down those dreadful Rocks. We descended 4 Miles of craggy way to the Caravanfera, which takes Name from that Mountain; after Travelling 24 Miles in 11 Hours. Friday 30th, we went down a more easy way, but very long because of its winding about the Mountain which abounds in Fir, Beech, and Nut-trees. Then we pass'd over the 3d Stone Bridge near a Mountain, at the foot whereof we entred into a way under Ground, to come to a Caravanfera at the other side. After riding 22 Miles in 10 Hours we lay at Night in the Caravanfera of the Village of Giumis-Xane, that is, Silver House, because of the ruins of this Metal there are in that Neighbourhood, where the Country produces plenty of Apples, Hazle-nuts, and bad Wine. Here we had but an ill Night of it.

Saturday the first of May, after six Hours riding, we pass'd by a Gold Mine, where they did not work because it was spoil'd by the inundation of the River, and at a small distance thence by one of Silver. The Natives told me there were many more of Lead, and Copper, which is therefore very cheap among the Turks, who have all sorts of Utensils of it Tinn'd both within and without. Thence we pass'd by Cuvans, and after Travelling 20 Miles in 10 Hours, Night coming on lay at Balaxor in the House of our Cartergi or Muletier. This Village is seated in an excellent and fruitful Plain. I cannot decide whether the Houses are Caves or Stables; for they are dug out of the



the Earth, which serves as a Wall, with great Beams lay'd across above, to support the Roof which is of Earth also, and even with the Roads they ride on. They leave a large gap in the middle to let in the Light, not regarding that all they do within, can be seen through it. Men and Beasts lodge together in them; so that I was forc'd to spend that Night in such good Company. I was much pleas'd in this Country at their Ovens to bake Bread and for other uses. They make a Trench three Spans deep in the Ground, Plaister'd with plain Mud, with a small hole for the Flame. Making a Wood fire in it, they fasten an Iron across the Mouth, and to that another that is moveable, so shap'd that 5 Pots may stand and boil on it. This turns round for the conveniency of the Person that dresses the Meat. The Pots being taken away from the top, and the Fire from the bottom, and the Oven cleans'd from Ashes, they put in the Dough unleaven'd after the Fashion of the East, and thus the Bread or Cake is soon bak'd, which the *Mahometans* like extremely. This done it serves to spread the Table on and keep the Company warm, without any other Fire. And shutting the hole they make use of it to keep the Meat warm, in case Strangers should come in.

Zeal of the
Armenians

The Village being for the most part inhabited by *Armenians*, they all flock'd in Crouds to our Stable, to be instructed in the Divine Mysteries by *F. Villot*. He had learn'd the *Armenian* Language perfectly to this purpose; and invented a Game like that of the Goose, to make them the better remember those things, calling it a game of Devotion, because the said Mysteries were Printed on it.

I was not a little edify'd to see what Pains those good People took to get room in our Stable, calling one another to hear the Word of God, which lasted till Night. The Harvest in *Asia* is great, and the Labourers but few. Did a Missioner stay in this Place but a few Weeks he would draw all the People out of the darkness of Heresy; so easily are they brought to own their Error. The *Jesuits* apply themselves very zealously to this good work in many parts of the *Turkish* and *Persian* Dominions; suffering the Affronts and Outrages of the *Mahometans* with Heroick Patience, having been several times persecuted and expell'd by them. They are maintain'd out of Revenues set apart for this purpose in *France*.

At Night came a *Chians*, who was hastning the March of the *Asian* Troops; because they advanc'd slowly, to be at *Belgrade* at the end, rather than of the beginning of the Campaign: This put us to a great deal of Trouble, for at Midnight he took two of our Horses for his own Use; and in the Morning we were at a loss, the *Caravan* being ready to set out, and no other Horses to be had in the Village. Therefore that we might not be left a prey to Robbers or *Janizaries* we made the half loads whole ones; and so a Horse remain'd quite light to ride by turns all day, and this made amends for the joy of the foregoing Night being *Sunday* the 2d, when we sup'd merrily and had a pleasant time of it, in remembrance of the persecution suffer'd by the *Jesuits* at *Arzerum* and *Trabezond* on that day two Years, as was said before.

However encouraging one another, we set out like Pilgrims on *Monday* 3d, following the *Caravan* through a plain, and well cultivated Country. The *Jesuits* would not make use of the Horse, but like the Apostles travell'd all the day afoot, *F. Dalmasius* still calling upon the Gentlemen *de Propaganda* to come and see him walk. The *Dominican* Father and I rode by turns, and the Country being full of Pigeons, and Mallards, I shot many flying both a Foot and a Horse-back, to the great admiration of the *Turks*, who could not hit one; which made *F. Villot* say I was one of the King of *France's* Huntmen, sent to serve the King of *Persia* in that employment. After travelling 12 Mile in six Hours, we pass'd through the Suburb, into the City *Beiburt*, where they pay a quarter of a Ducat Toll for every Horse.

This City is seated on a Rock, wall'd, and furnish'd with but a few pieces of Cannon. Good woollen Carpets made there are sold cheap. Its Suburb is part in the Valley and part, on the side of the Mountain. We went six Miles further along the River, near which we Encamp'd at the Place call'd *Meacur*, where we recover'd our Horses, the *Chians* having left them. A great Rain at Night wet us all.

Beiburt
City.

Tuesday 4th, we advanced but 10 Miles in 4 Hours, setting up in the Village of *Avirac*, seated on a Mountain, because the next days Journey was long. We lay in the House or rather Stable, of an *Armenian*, built after the same manner as was said before. Here they were then sowing of Wheat, because the Soil be-

ing

Gemelli. ing fruitful, it grows in a very short time, and yields a plentiful Harvest, Provisions are generally Cheap there; six Eggs being sold for a Penny, and a Hen for fifteen Pence.

Wednesday 5th, we climb'd up most dreadful high Mountains cover'd with Snow, on the last whereof we saw a good Quarry of white Marble. The *Turks* of the *Caravan* being afraid of Robbers would come one after another to bid me stand upon my Guard; relying much on me because I had a Gun and Pistols, and they thought me a good Marksman; whereas they had but few Fire-Arms, and some wanted Powder, some Flint, and some Ball. Others came to me to fix their Guns, and give them Ammunition, for fear of the Danger that threatned. From the vast height of the third Mountain we again descended into a deep Valley, the Horses with their Loads every where slipping on the Snow, and took our Rest in a Stable in the Village of *Carvor*, having Travell'd 24 Miles in eleven Hours.

Thursday 6th, being to Ford over the

River *Euphrates*, then swoln with Water, we thought better to go three Leagues about, than expose our selves to such Danger. Therefore parting from the *Caravan*, with a few more that follow'd us, we went away to pass over a Stone-Bridge, near which the River *Gerzime*, carrying not much less Water falls into the *Euphrates*, or *Carasce*, which is there less than the *Vulturnus* of *Capua*, in the Kingdom of *Naples*. We Travell'd along on the left of it eight Miles on the Plain of *Erzerum*, our Days Journy being ten Hours to the Village of *Taurischuil*. There were Persons appointed in all those Villages by the Tax-gatherer to receive the Head-Mony of all Travellers, but we as *Franks* defended our selves by Virtue of the *Grand Signior's Firman*, or Order.

That Night, being near our Journy's end, with the consent of the *Catergi*, or Muletier, to whom I promis'd a Reward, I clap'd some small Things that were to pay Custom, into a Bag of Straw, which in those Countries they lay under the Loads instead of Pannels.

CHAP. IV.

The Author's Arrival at Erzerum, and the Description of that City.

F*Riday* in the Morning, Travelling over a Beautiful, and well cultivated Plain, scatter'd with several Villages, and encompass'd with Mountains cover'd with Snow, at the end of twelve Miles we arriv'd at *Erzerum*. As soon as we entred the Suburbs, we paid fifteen Grains of *Naples*, that is about three Pence half Penny for each Horse. Then we went to the Custom-House, but the Customer being at Noon-Day Prayers, when he came, we desir'd him to Seal the Trunks, that he might come home some time after to Search them. He very civilly comply'd, sending soon after one to Search them, who found nothing liable to Pay; so that I found not that Severity Monsieur *Tavernier* mentions of Sealing the Trunks and Bails a Day before they come to *Erzerum*, by People appointed by the Customer, that Things liable to Pay may not be taken out to Defraud the Custom-House.

I took a stately Room in the *Caravanserai*, near the Custom-House, that I might often enjoy the Company of Mr.

Prescot, an *English* Merchant, who acted as Consul, and liv'd opposite to me. He coming to bid me Welcome, carry'd me Home, and Entertain'd me well at Dinner and Supper, being sorry he could not Treat me, as he would have done in *Christendom*, because the Country does not afford those Dainties that are to be had in *Italy*, and other Parts; but he tormented me with often Drinking to me, requiring I should do the same, which I could not. He inform'd me to my Sorrow, that the Day before my Arrival, a great *Caravan* was gone for *Tauris*, which had been an excellent Opportunity for me.

Erzerum, or *Adirbegian*, by some is plac'd in the lesser *Armenia*, and by others made the Metropolis of the greater, where they think it likely the first Man was Created, and placed by God in the most delightful Garden of Paradise. The Country is noble for having been first cultivated by *Adam*, when Expell'd Paradise; and because *Noah*, after the Flood came there out of the Ark, and offer'd Sacrifice to God. A Country, that

Erzerum
City.

Asiae Nov.
desc. lib. 5.
cap. 1.

Gen. 8.



Gemelli.
1694.
Joseph lib.
1. antiq.
ap. 4.

that on the top of its Mountains long kept the remains of the Ark, according to antient Traditions, and upon the credit of antient Patriarchs. Prophane Authors will have it that *Theſſalus* took the Name of the *Armenian Hero*.

Erzerum is ſeated on a long Plain, under high Mountains, at the end of the Plain 30 Miles long, and 10 in breadth. Its Walls are two Miles in compaſs, and are double, but not fill'd with Earth, or Ramparts. About it is an indifferent Ditch, and ſeveral Towers at convenient Diſtances, with ſmall Pieces of Cannon, ſuch as they call Falconets, ſo that on the out-ſide it looks much like *Conſtantinople*. At the Eaſt-end is a Caſtle and a Fort, for the *Aga* of the *Janizaries*, both of them commanded by a Hill, and a Tower on it, whence the Enemy may be diſcover'd at a great Diſtance. Near this Caſtle is the *Armenian Cathedral*, much decay'd, excepting two Towers built of Brick. There are three Iron Gates to the City; at that call'd of *Tauris*, there lie on the Ground twenty good Pieces of Cannon; the reſt being broke up to be carry'd to *Conſtantinople*. The Houſes, as alſo thoſe in the Suburbs, for the moſt part inhabited by *Armenians* are low, and made of Wood and Mud; the Streets narrow, and unpav'd; and the *Bazar's* mean; but it is ſo Populous, that there are in the Suburbs only 22 *Caravanſeras* for the *Caravans* of *Persia*. The Air is very Cold, by reaſon of the Snow lying continually on the Neighbouring Mountains; but it is not ſo bad for the Eyes as *Tavernier* pretends; but this makes the Fruit ripen very late, for which reaſon it is firſt brought out of *Georgia*, and were it not ſupply'd from the Villages about, it would be ſcarce. Yet Proviſions are very Cheap, for a Pennyworth of Bread will ſerve a Man a Day, and he may buy almoſt thirty Pounds of Biſket for a *Carline*, or Six-pence; five Eggs for a *Torneſe*, or Penny, and a Hen for five, and ſo other Things proportionably. All this Plenty proceeds from the fruitfulneſs of the aforeſaid Plain. But, as I was told, Corn does not ripen in ſixty Days, and Barly in forty, (according to *Tavernier's Account*) for whiſt I was there, they were actually Sowing to Reap in September.

Euphrates River.

The River *Euphrates* has its Springs in a Mountain call'd *Aphrat*, or *Mingol*, ſix Hours Journey from *Erzerum*; wherefore the Springs of this River, accord-

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ing to Scripture and Fathers, being in *Paradice*, I was within ſix Hours of *Paradice*. But others are of Opinion that its true Source is in *Georgia*, and that the frequent Earthquakes have cover'd it.

Inscr.
Auth. Aſia
deſi. lib. 4.
c. 17.

The Government of *Erzerum* is very Beneficial, and much Eſteem'd among the *Turks*. The Women in the City are clad in Cloth, and wear Boots, and a Black Thing before their Forehead to hide their Face; on their Head they have a long piece of Stuff hanging down to their Knees.

Saturday 8th, *Monſieur Lacroniere*, of the Province of *Blois*, came with the *Caravan* from *Persia*, and the next Day turn'd *Mahometan*, deſpairing of ever obtaining his Pardon for two Duels he Fought, killing two Men in *France*. He gave out he was ſent into thoſe Parts by the King, as a Spy upon the *Turks*, and that all the *Franks*, who go into the *Levant*, are Spies ſent by the King to ſtir up the *Persians* to recover *Bagdat* and *Erzerum*; and others into *Muscovy*, to perſwade that Prince to ſeize the Towns on the Black Sea; and that therefore they carry their Credentials ſew'd up in their Shooes. Tho' the *French* look upon him as a Mad-man, yet thoſe *Barbarians* ſeem to Credit him, to have the opportunity of doing the *Franks* harm; and this made me live in ſome Fear.

Sunday 9th, I heard Maſs at the *Jefuits Church*. Having left my Gun at the City Gate, according to Cuſtom, I ſent *Monday 10th*, the uſual Duty to the *Turk* at the Gate to have it return'd, but Mr. *Preſcot's* Man going in his Maſter's Name, he reſtor'd it without taking any thing. But on *Tuesday 11th*, as I was going to Mr. *Preſcot's*, I ſaw the *Turk* that had reſtor'd the Gun making Signs to me to ſtop. I went on nevertheleſs, for not underſtanding him I thought it in vain to ſtay. The *Turk* enrag'd that I ſlighted him, ran after me with his Knife drawn, and had hurt me, but that Mr. *Preſcot* laid hold of him about the middle. I had not fear'd him in another Place, but in *Turky* the Laws are too ſevere againſt a *Frank* that Oppoſes a *Turk*, and therefore to be rid of him, I gave what he demanded.

Extortion
of the
Turks.

Wednesday 12th, I Din'd with *F. Vil- lot*, and we rejoiced at our ſafe Arrival, but my Satisfaction was diſturb'd on *Thursday 13th*, three Perſons coming to me from the *Muſſellin*, or *Baſſa's* Lieutenant, to Command me to depart the City within three Days; which Order

The Au-
thor and
Fathers
order'd
away to
Trabezond.

was



Gemelli.
1694. was also sent to the *Jesuits* and *Dominican*, they believing we were all five *Papa's*, or Religious Men. We guess'd this was not only brought about by the *French Renegado*, but by the *Schismatick Armenians*, to obstruct the Fathers settling in *Erzerum*, and the spreading of the Word of God. They had two Years before presented the *Bassa* with 2000 *Piafres*, to send them away together with *F. Philip Grimaldi*, who was going to *China*; which was done with some Tumult rais'd by the *Armenians*, 2500 Persons going in a Seditious manner to the *Bassa's* House, and about 400 to the Monastery, where the Fathers had been in danger of their Lives, had they not been well barr'd. To put a stop to this Mischiefe, Brother *Manfredi*, who play'd the Physician to reconcile the People to the Society, was sent to the *Mussellin*, to shew him the *Grand Signior's Firman*, or Order for re-settling the Fathers at *Erzerum*; but he without so much as seeing it, order'd we should return that same Day towards *Trabizond*. The great distance from Court made him not value the *Firman*, and he said the *Papa's* had represented Things as they thought fit to the *Sultan*; and therefore he would acquaint him how Averse the whole City was to their Re-establishment. The Brother went thence to the *Cadi* to obtain at least some longer time, and was civilly answer'd they might go with the first *Caravan*, that they might not be expos'd to be Robb'd and Murder'd by Thieves. The *Mussellin* hearing of it, sent for *Manfredi*, and railing at him for having been the occasion of the Fathers Return first, and then of their Stay, committed him to Prison; but being told that the *Cadi* had consented to the Delay, he releas'd him within two Hours; threatening to make him stay in the City, and after formal Procefs to cause him to be *Bastonado'd* till the Nails of his Toes flew off.

That same Day the *Mussellin* would be inform'd what I was by Mr. *Prescot*, who giving him an Account of my Travels, told him, I was no Religious Man, nor of the Society, but a Lay-Man that Travell'd out of meer Curiosity. As he was returning home, the *Dominican* Father came to desire him, that he would acquaint the *Mussellin*, that he was not of the Society, but a *Dominican*, sent into *Persia* by his General, and that his Order not being comprehended in the Petition of the *Armenians*, he would get him leave to proceed on his Journey.

But the Consul's Words were of no force with that Barbarian, whom nothing but Money could Mollify. *F. Villot* was very angry that the *Dominican* should have made that use of *Prescot*, and therefore came in a Passion at Night to tell me, every one might shift for himself, because he and his Companions had the *Firman* to go into *Persia*. I bid him mind his own Business, for I did not mistrust God's Providence, and was ready to suffer those Crosses, and therefore without being at all dismay'd, I resolv'd if I could not go directly from *Erzerum*, to return to *Trabezond*, and thence pass through *Georgia* into *Persia*.

Going on Friday 14th, to hear Mass at the *Jesuits*, I saw Brother *Manfredi* go to the *Mussellin*, and return with a favourable Answer, which when *F. Villot* had heard, he said to me, Monsieur *Gemelli*, the Matter is adjusted for 25 Ducats; two *Zecchines* will be your share to go into *Persia*. I might have answer'd, that since the foregoing Night they would not admit me into their Number, I had taken other Measures; and that he did me that Favour to save Charges, because the *Mussellin* would have as much for three as for five; but that he might see I was not led away by Interest, I said I would pay my Quota; which the *Dominican* was very unwilling to do.

After Dinner the *Nazar*, or Protector of Strangers, who had been acquainted with the Business by his Brother the *Mussellin*, sent for *Manfredi*, and made a great Noise because we were not gone. The other answer'd we had leave to go for *Persia*. No, said the *Nazar*, you shall go for *Trabezond*, with the *Caravan* that is now ready. *Manfredi* understanding his Design was to have share of our Money, he told him he would bring him an Answer the next Day. But it pleas'd God, that News being brought, both the Brothers on Saturday 15th, that the *Bassa* had sent others to take their Places, they being taken up, refusing to resign to the others, never thought of us.

In the Evening, the *Mussellin* sent for some Fathers that could speak the *Turkish* Language, to Expound some Maps given him by the Renegado *Laironiere*, who could not do it: *F. Villot* went, who, having given him Satisfaction concerning part of *Asia*, tho' the Turk was not much the wiser, was ask'd, where he had learnt the *Turkish* Language; and he answering that in a Year he resid'd

They obtain leave to go to *Persia*.

at



at Constantinople. The *Musselin* reply'd, he could not learn to speak so well in a Year. It falling then opportunely to talk of our Affair, the Father added, I liv'd some time in this City, and was here when the Fathers were expell'd; which I am given to understand you design to do again, notwithstanding the *Grand Signior's* Order. The *Musselin* reply'd, Why do you not go upon the Mission into Germany? Because the *Germans* said the Father, are our Kings Enemies, and would kill us, and therefore we come into this Country who are our Friends. Then they went together to the *Cadi's* (a Man whose Wisdom had rais'd him to the greatest employs of the Empire in the Reign of Sultan *Mahomet*) and having shewn him several Countries of *Asia*, he ask'd whether the Father durst undertake to make such a Map in the *Turkish* Tongue, and how long he would be about it. Being told he could do it in a Week, they sent him home, bidding him stay and do it.

F. Villot being to stay, 8 *Zecchines* were sent by Brother *Manfredi*, on Sunday 16th to the *Musselin*; after which the *Chiaga* sent to enquire about the rest

and hasten our departure, signifying that *F. Villot* must go when the Map was made. The *Nazar* sent for Brother *Manfredi* again on Monday 17th, to let him know he would be presented as well as his Brother; both of them had good Words, and were put in hopes of that which was never to come to pass. The same day two Servants of the *Nazar's* came to the *Caravansera* in his Name to ask a Vest of me. Being sensible this was an invention of their own, that they might not go away dissatisfied, and contrive to do me some mischief, I promis'd Mr. *Prescot* should give them a *Piastre* after I was gone, that they might not send others on the same errand. Seeing my self expos'd to be cheated and robb'd on all sides, I resolv'd to be gone without a *Caravan*, hazarding all dangers whatsoever; both the Fathers and I thinking it better to go on, venturing to be robb'd by Thieves, yet with the Liberty of defending our selves, than to stay in the City, like Sheep among Wolves without being allow'd to speak for our selves. Having therefore hir'd Horses for 4 *Piastras* a piece, we prepar'd to leave *Erzerum* privately.

CHAP. V.

The Author's Journey to Kars, and the Danger he was in of being robb'd.

They proceed on their Journey.

Tuesday 18th, the Fathers *Dalmatius*, and *Martin*, French Jesuits; *F. Dominick* of Bologna a Dominican, and I, took our Flight out of the City after Midnight, like the *Israelites* persecuted by *Pharaoh*. Near break of Day the Custom-house Officers came out of a Tent to stop us six Miles from the City; but shewing them the Customers discharge and giving them a *Rup*, which is a quarter of a *Neapolitan* Ducat, they let us pass; notwithstanding my Muletier, who was a *Georgian*, falling out with an *Armenian* belonging to those Officers, had buffeted him very well. Three Miles from thence my Horse starting threw me; and with the fall broke the Stock of my Gun, which I could put but into an indifferent posture to serve me by the way. All the Country we travell'd over that Day was plain, and much resembling the plain *Apulia* in the Kingdom of *Naples*. They were actually sowing, tho' they had not Plow'd.

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Having cross'd a great River about the Evening, we went to take up our quarters at the Village of *Axa*, our *Catergi's* place of Birth, in whose House we lodg'd; having in 8 hours travell'd 20 Miles, out of the common way of the *Caravan*, which always passes through the little but beautiful Castle of *Hassan-kale*, seated on a Hill, and 4 Miles distant from the aforesaid Village, where a *Rup* or quarter of a Ducat is paid for every Horse. We were lodg'd in the Muletiers House, and had an excellent Supper, because the place is plentiful of Provisions; four Pigeons being sold for five *Torneles*, or five Pence.

Wednesday 19th, a *Janizary* crossing the Road would make us return to the Fort to pay a certain duty, and with much difficulty we persuaded him to receive it, without giving us the trouble of going back to the Fort. Twelve Miles further we had a worse re-encounter, through the fault of the Muletiers,

More examinations.

O 2

who



who would take a Road not us'd by the *Gemelli.* *Caravans.* The Officers of the Custom-
1694 house of *Tolisci*, and of the Bridge of
Scio-ban-nupri, seeing we did not take
the way of the Bridge, came up and
commanded us to go with them, as far
as the Village. Being willing to buy off
this Trouble, they ask'd us 5 *Piaftres*,
but seeing we scoff'd at their Impertinent
demand, they began to fly for fear of
being beaten. We on the other Hand
fearing something worse might befall us,
thought it better to overtake them and
Compound for two *Piaftres*.

The fruitfulness of the Soil, makes
Provisions there worth little or nothing;
and the more because the Natives live
upon four Milk, Cakes instead of Bread,
and Water. Having travell'd 28 Miles
in ten Hours, we came to the Village of
Korason, where another of our *Catergis*
was Born, on the left of the River *A-*
raxes, which runs from the Foot of
Mount *Mingol* into the *Caspian* Sea. The
Houses of this Village are under Ground
like those of *Balaxor*.

Thursday 20th, being Ascension day,
we staid in that Village to please the *Ca-*
tergi. One sent by the Customer, came
home to view my Trunks, and see the
Tascare of the Custom-house of *Erzerum*.
He took nothing; but a *Nazar* that
came with him, seeing we had no Pass
came again at Night, and would have a
Piaftre by way of composition, which
the Customer did not approve of. It is
most certain the poor *Franks* every where
suffer through the avarice of the *Turks*,
but in some places a small matter con-
tents them. The Women of this Vil-
lage cover their Faces, almost after the
manner of *Egypt*, with little Plates of
Silver, worth about a *Carline* of *Naples*,
which move prettily with their Heads;
and they wear two rows of Buttons on
both sides their Vests, with other little
Silver Plates.

Fryday 21st, we travell'd eight Miles
of Mountain way, and halted on the
Bank of a River, where our *Catergis*
would wash themselves, that place a-
bounding in Mineral Waters. Going
thence we met with three *Janizaries*,
who pretending they belong'd to the
Poll-tax-gatherer, would have us pay
that Duty. We refusing to pay it on
account of our *Firman*, they would make
us turn back; and therefore tho' we were
stronger, we were forc'd to give a *Pi-*
aftre to be rid of them. All about
these Plains there were curious wild
Tulips, which would be much valu'd in

Europe. We lay that Night at *Mising-*
hirt, a Village in a Valley at the foot of
a Rock, on which is an antient and al-
most ruin'd Castle. Here tho' there
were many Christians, yet we lay in the
open Field. The Natives to get some-
thing gave us to understand that but a
few days before the Rogues on the
Mountain had robb'd some Travellers.
The Fathers and one *Coggia Abram* born
at *Erzerum*, being put into a fright at
this news, would needs take four Men
along to convoy us. I was satisfy'd they
were Spies, and worse than Thieves, and
that they had no good Arms, yet that
they might not think I kept off out of
covetousness, I condescended to pay my
share of five *Rups*, we gave them, which
is a Ducat and a quarter.

For the more security, we travell'd by
Night, through Woods of Pine-trees,
and over steep Mountains the nests of
Robbers; two of whom meeting us had
not the Courage to make any attempt.
I lost the scourer of my Gun in lighting
to walk part of the way, and be ready
upon any occasion.

Saturday 22d, about break of Day, we
found our Guards such as I had ima-
gin'd them; for two of them had Match-
locks without covers to the Pans or
Match, another had neither Powder nor
Ball; and the fourth had nothing but
a long Staff which only wanted a
good Arm to strike. These being as
great Thieves as any in the World, see-
ing it was day, demanded their Pay be-
fore we were out of the Wood. *F. Dal-*
matius refusing, because we were not yet
out of danger, one of them threatned
to run him through with his Spear; which
made me persuade him to pay, rather
than indanger his Person. When they
had receiv'd the Mony, they stay'd be-
hind, without regarding their Duty, for
we had still two Miles to go through the
Wood. We had advanc'd but a few
steps to get out of it, before twelve
Men, some afoot and some a horseback
appear'd before us, at sight of whom my
Catergi drawing near me, said, *Crusi*, or
Thieves, and ask'd for one of my Pistols,
but I would not give it him. Our company
was in a consternation, but *Coggia* above
the rest, who tho' the Night before I
had fix'd his Gun, that he might help
to defend us in case of need; yet chose
rather to trust to his Horses heels, with-
out regarding the Shame of running away,
than hazar'd his Life, by shewing Courage.

The frightened Fathers and I being left
to oppose the Robbers, I alighted with
my

Knavery
of the
pretended
Guard.

Danger
of Rob-
bers.



my Guns and Pistols in a readiness; and leaving them a Horse-back with bad Pistols, and without Powder posted myself on the Left, behind some Rocks, waiting under Covert to see what the Rovers would do. They being badly Arm'd, and some of them only with Staves, tho' Twelve in Number, would not stand the Test, but turning off, went up the Mountain, leaving the Way free to us. The *Turks* Extoll'd my Behaviour, and the Fathers much more, who from that time forward us'd in Jest to call me *Caraoon-Baschi*, or Captain of the small *Caravan*. I was so inrag'd against the Run-away *Coggia*, that as a Punishment of his Cowardice, I would have left his Goods to the mercy of the Rob-

bers; but at the Request of the *Jesuits*, I suffer'd them to be carry'd on. Being out of the Wood, we rested our Horses in a Plain, near which there was good Pasture, and a Village of *Kurds*. Three Hours after we set forwards a good Pace, and went to lie at the Village of *Coranlo*; having Travell'd that Day 36 Miles in 10 Hours. This Place was inhabited by *Armenians*, who disturb'd us with their Sick, to get some Medicine of the *Jesuits*, who carry several sorts; which hapned to us wheresoever we came. All the way beyond the Mountains, which made one half, was an excellent Soil, but untill'd for want of People.

CHAP. VI.

A short Description of Kars, and the Continuation of the Author's Journey to the Frontiers of Persia.

Sunday 23d, having Travell'd twelve Miles in five Hours, we came to the City *Kars*, the frontier Town of the *Turkish* Dominions, and lodg'd in a *Caravansera* in the Suburb.

Kars City. *Kars* is a Large, but not Populous City, tho' there be plenty of Provisions, and very Cheap, seated in a most fruitful Plain, and 78 Degrees 4 Minutes of Longitude, and 42 Degrees 40 Minutes of Latitude. The reason of its being so ill inhabited is, because being on the Frontiers, it has suffer'd sometimes by the *Persian*, and sometimes by the *Ottoman* Arms; being no sooner recover'd from the one, than it has fallen again under the other, as has hapned to many other Places, which have been ruin'd by the *Persians* for eight or nine Days Journey. *Kars* is a sufficient Testimony to Posterity of the Behaviour of the *Persians* in taking of strong Holds; and how dreadful the strokes of their Scimitars are to the *Turks*.

But to return to the Business in hand. *Kars* is seated in *Turcomania*. Its shape is long, looking towards the South, and two Miles in compass, on the side of a rising Ground. Its two Walls are of Earth, with small Towers, two Gates, and as many Bridges on the side of the River and Suburb. The Fort which stands on the Rock, is inaccessible on that side next the River. In it is a good Garrison, out of which every Night a

Detachment of forty Horse goes to scour the Country on the Frontiers. The Houses by reason of the thinness of the Inhabitants are more like Dens, made of Timber and Mud. For 130 Years last past, since Subject to the *Ottoman* Empire, it has always been Govern'd by a *Bassa*; rather out of Jealousy because it is a Frontier, than because the greatness of the Place deserves it.

In Compliance to the *Catergi*, we stay'd there all Monday 24th. The *Georgian*, would have all the Money for the Journey paid him here, whereas the Custom is to pay at the Journeys end; and we refusing, he stood in it, that he would go no further. We were forced to get the *Armenian* Customer to oblige him to go; or else we would have provided our selves otherwise at his Expence. But the Cheating *Armenian* made us pay for his Kindness; for whereas his Duty was half a *Piastre* a loaded Horse, he demanded a *Zecchine*, and with much Difficulty took a *Piastre*.

Having agreed with the Custom-House, we proceeded on our Journey on Tuesday 25th, taking as a good Omen four Guns the *Turks* fir'd on account of the Solemnity of their *Bairam*, their Fast of *Ramazan* being ended; which rejoiced the Hearts of the poor Country People, seeing themselves deliver'd from the hardship of working on the Fast-Day, and watching to Eat at Night. All that

Lexic. Geo-
graph Phil.
Ferr. Verb.
Cnsc.

Gemelli.
1694. that Day riding over those excellent Plains, we met several Troops of *Kurds* with their moveable Houses on Oxen, with Pannels on them.

The
Kurds.

These People live like Beasts, and are so Brutal, that they wander about all the Year, seeking good Pasture for their Herds, living upon the same Food as they do. After riding thirty Miles in ten Hours, we lay in the Village of *Chiala*, consisting of but a few Caves. Here the Insolent *Catergi* began again to refuse going any further, unless he were paid his whole Due; and we did nothing but Wrangle from Morning till Night. I had much ado to forbear beating of him, for fear of bringing my self into further Trouble.

Ani-kagac
City.

We set out late on *Wednesday* 26th, and were not a little mov'd to Compassion by the way to see so many Places destroy'd by the Wars, whose Ruins still shew their former Greatness; and particularly the City *Anikagac*, six Miles from the aforesaid Village. It was founded on an Advantagious, tho' Marshy Ground, by a King of *Armenia* of the same Name. A good part of its Walls are still standing, near the East-side, whereof runs the River *Arpasuy*, which rising in the Mountains of *Mingrelia*,

falls into the River of *Kars*. There are still to be seen the Ruins of several Monasteries, two whereof are almost entire, which they say were founded by Kings.

Going on at a distance, we discover'd the high Mountain *Ararat*, where *Noah's* Ark is said to have rested. Then we entred upon a Valley, on which there were several Things like Piramids scatter'd about, made by the Water in Stone, very Pleasant to behold. Next we pass'd by the Fort of *Arpasuy*, the last Garrison of the *Turks*, seated on a Rock after such a manner, that it needs no Wall on three sides; but only on that where the Entrance is. Within it there is a good Garrison, and without a Village, where a *Rup*, or quarter of a *Neapolitan* Ducat is paid for every Horse that passes. In this same Valley we pass'd a Bridge over a River which parts the *Ottoman* and *Persian* Empires. As soon as I got to the further side, I alighted to kiss the Ground I had so long wish'd for, that I might be deliver'd from the Frauds of the *Turks*. What hapned to me from that time forwards, shall God willing be deliver'd in the second Volume.

Mount
Ararat.

The End of the First VOLUME.

A VOY.



A
V O Y A G E

Round the W O R L D,

By Dr. John Francis Gemelli Careri.

P A R T II.

Containing the most Remarkable Things he saw in
P E R S I A.

B O O K I.

C H A P. I.

The Author's Entering upon the Persian Dominions, and Journey to Erivan, with the Description of that City.

Gemelli.
1694.

THE Possession of those Things we have long desir'd, produces in us such Joy and Satisfaction, that it makes us forget past Sufferings, and disposes us willingly to undergo such as are to follow. This hapned to me at my entring upon the *Persian* Dominions, for the Pleasure of it made me not think of a tiresome Ascent we had to Climb; and taking Heart now I was in a Country, where more Honesty was Practis'd, I with good Cudgelling made the *Catergis* go on, who would needs then at an improper Season stay to rest their Horses, having advis'd me but just before to be upon my Guard, because the *Turkish* Garrison us'd to make Excursions on that side.

First Village of Persia.

After ten Miles riding, we met a multitude of *Kurds* incamp'd in Tents (which they set up in a Moment, fixing a Pole in the Earth, with a great Wheel at the top of it, to which other crooked Staves are fastned to bear up the Tent) they exacted half a *Piastre* a Horse of us for passing; for in *Persia* it is not usual to open Trunks, but to give some-

thing according to the Quality of the Persons. Having rested, and fed our Horses, we went on a very Stony way, and having in all Travell'd 28 Miles that Day in ten Hours, the chief *Muletier* set up at *Talen*, the first Village of *Persia*. In this Place was a good Church for the use of the Christian *Armenians*, who are the best part of the Inhabitants. On the high Altar are the Pictures of the Holy Apostles; but it is now gone to Ruin, as is another near it. Having taken up our Lodging in the House of a Christian, as we had done all through *Armenia*, that is Subject to the *Turks*, a *Vertabietto*, or *Armenian* Preacher, but to look to, a Rude ignorant Clown, came to Visit us, who seeing one of our Horses Sick, fell to blessing of Water for him, crossing it, mumbling some Words, and making ugly Faces, and throwing a Needle into it three times, in the most Superstitious manner imaginable. To this Village they bring on Oxen, with Pannels on them, abundance of Stone-Salt, which they cut out of a Mountain a Day's Journey from thence.

In



Gemelli.
1694.
A curious Flower.

In these Fields I saw a curious and rare Flower, which any *Italian* Prince would perhaps give a considerable Sum of Money to have in his Garden. The Stalk of it is not above half a Span long, at the end whereof there are three white Flowers standing upright, like a Plume of Feathers, and three other Purple ones hanging down in a Triangle, with a little black Rose in the middle, and three others of a brighter Colour, twining about the aforelaid Flowers.

Eghiamiasen
Church.

Thursday 27th, at break of Day we set out again, and after riding 24 Miles in nine Hours came to the three Churches, call'd by the *Armenians* *Eghiamiasen*, that is, Only Son, which is the name of the chief of them. This, as their Histories tell us, was Built 300 Years after the coming of Christ; and they add, that when the Walls were as high as a Man, the Devil in the Night destroy'd all they Built by Day; but that at last Jesus Christ appearing one Night, the Devil could no longer obstruct the Building of the Church. It is dedicated to *St. George*, to whom the *Armenians* pay a great Veneration. Within, the Structure is in the form of a Cross, with a Cupula in the middle, under which they shew the Stone, on which they say our Saviour appear'd to *St. Gregory*, much honour'd by them. There are three Doors into it, and all the Pavement is cover'd with good Carpets. It has three Altars; to the high one there is an Ascent of four Steps, and near it on the right side is the Patriarch's Chair. There are six Steps up to the Altar on the right Hand, and three to that on the left, with each a Patriarchal Chair against Mafs is solemnly Celebrated at them. On the out-side there are four small Towers at the four Angles, in one of which the Bells are, and the Standard of the Cross every where set up; which is not permitted by the *Turks* on any Account.

The Monastery.

Close by the Church is the Monastery, where the Bishop and Fathers reside, with an excellent Garden in the middle. The Patriarch's Apartments are over the first great Court, where the Fountain is; through which they go into the second, which with its Arches serves only for a *Caravansera* for Pilgrims; for the Monks go through another Court and larger Gate to their Cells and Church. The whole Place is enclos'd with high Mud Walls, within which compass there are several Vineyards and Gardens.

The Patriarch is counted one of the first among the *Armenians*, and has such a conceit of himself and his Authority, that not very long since, he had the boldness to Excommunicate *S. Leo* Pope, because he approv'd the Council of *Calcedon*, which condemn'd theirs and the *Greek Heresy*.

The 2d Monastery, with the Church dedicated to *S. Cagana*, is a Musket shot from the first. It was built in Honour of a Princess, who coming from *Italy* with 40 Maidens, to see *S. Gregory*, was by a King of *Armenia* cast into a Well full of Snakes, because she would not consent to his Will; where having remain'd 14 Years, without receiving any harm, at last in a Rage he put her to Death with the 40 Maidens; as the *Armenians* relate.

The 2d Monastery.

The structure of the Church is like the other, but less. There is but one Altar, with the Body of an Heretical *Armenian*, whom they call a Saint, under it. There are two other Tombs without, one on each side of the great Gate. As for the Monastery it has a small Cloister, with a Garden, and Cells for a few Monks, who look to a small number of Ignorant Idle Country People.

The 3d Monastery a Mile and a half from these, is very small, and dedicated to *S. Kerima*. There is but one Altar in the Church, which has three Doors, and good Vineyards and Fields belonging to it, as well as the others. The *Armenians* that go out or return to *Persia*, use generally to stay three days at these Churches, to perform their Devotions, and receive the Patriarch's Blessing.

3d Monastery.

This Plain of *Erivan* is very fertile, and full of Vines and Fruit-trees; as also abounding in Wheat, Rice, and other Grain; and this because the Natives improve it, making use of the Waters of the River *Araxes*, which runs across it, besides several other Rivulets; and levelling the Ground with a long Rowler drawn with a Rope by one Man, and help'd forward by another, with a Handle. Hence it is that when the Corn is ripe in *Persia* they are sowing in *Turky*.

Plain of Erivan.

Mount *Ararat* is but 8 Miles from these Monasteries. A constant Tradition deliver'd down to our Days, will have it that *Noah's Ark* rested on it. At the Foot of it runs the River *Araxes*, and rises another large Mountain, but small in respect of Mount *Ararat*, of which we shall speak hereafter.

Mount Ararat.

That



Gemelli. That Night I lay in the great Monastery, and *Fryday* 28th, in the Morning went into the Church, to see about 70 Priests officiate in two Rooms in the midst of it. 3 Hours after we continu'd our Journey to *Erivan* on a good Road, and passing by many Villages after ten Miles riding, came to that City. I took a Room in the only *Caravansera* there was in the Suburb, to avoid troubling the *Jesuits*, who did not live like the *Italians*.

Erivan
City.

The present City of *Erivan* was built on the ruins of another of the same Name, in the longitude of 64 degrees, and 20 Minutes, and 42 degrees, and 15 Minutes of latitude. Next the River *Zangli*, it is seated on a Rock, and the other parts on the Plain. Its whole circumference is but a Mile, with a deep Ditch, a double Wall; and Bastions of Earth, subject to be beaten down with Cannon, and wash'd away with the Rain. Nor are the Houses any better, and Inhabited only by a few Traders, and the Garrison. It has three Iron-Gates; and but a few, and those small Pieces of Cannon. The *Bazar* is indifferent. The Palace of the *Cham* or Governor fronts the River, and is as great as Earth can make it.

The Mint.

Saturday 29th, I went to see the Mint, where the Silver and Brass is Coin'd; there being no Gold Coin in *Persia*, but what little is made at the King's Coronation, which is either scatter'd among the People, or given to those that have deserv'd well. The *Persians* Coin their Money after this fashion. Having placed the Metal in a trench, with Coals and Wood over it, they melt it by the blowing of two pair of Bellows; they cast it into long slips, which they afterwards beat out into Plates; others cut it out and others make the pieces round, others weigh, and others hammer them smooth, after which they are Stamp'd by force of Men.

The
Bridge.

Sunday 30th, I went to take the Air on the Bridge there is over the aforelaid River, consisting of good Arches, near which under the shade of thick Trees, there are small Rooms for the diversion of the *Cham*, to whom the Government of the City is worth full 200000 Crowns a Year. This River comes from a Lake call'd *Gigaguni*, 80 Miles distant from *Erivan*, and falls into the *Araxes*, running 3 Leagues off on the South side.

The
River.

The
Suburb.

Munday the last of the Month, I walk'd about to see the Suburb, or ra-

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ther the Inhabited Country, because of the many Farms and Gardens it contains. It is 20 times as big as the City, most of the Traders, and all the Artificers and *Armenians*, living in it. There is an excellent *Bazar* and *Meidan*, along the City Wall; but there is an infinite number of ruin'd Houses, by reason of the continual Wars betwixt the *Turks* and *Persians*, which have reduced the City and Country about it, to a deplorable condition. The whole compass is about 10 Miles, for the most part enclos'd with a work thrown up of Earth, and by the neighbouring Hills, which in time of War, might much endamage the City. All this space produces excellent Wine, and abounds in delicious Fruit, besides pleasant Poplar, and Willow-trees.

From *Toos* to *Tauris* the Country is for the most part inhabited by Christians, who get their living by Silk works, and other Trades; because of the continual Passage of the *Caravans*, which carry Silk from a Province near *Erivan*, and other Commodities of *Persia*. It is incredible how great an income these *Caravans* bring to the King; because the Custom-house being nothing severe, for no Bales of Goods are open'd, the Merchants are willing to resort thither with the best Commodities they can, paying but some small duty to the Officers on the way.

Tuesday the first of *June*, not to lye idle at *Erivan*, I hir'd a Horse to go with some others into the Country, to the Church of *Kiekart*. I came thither after 8 Hours riding, and found a Monastery of *Armenians* cut out of the Rock, whereof the Pillars are made that support the Church. According to their Tradition, the Spear that pierc'd our Saviour's side, is preserv'd in this place; which they say was brought by St. *Matthew*. Near this Church is a Lake, and five other Monasteries of *Armenians*.

Kiekart
Church.

As soon as I came to *Erivan* I hir'd Horses for *Tauris*, for 10 *Abassis* a piece (every *Abassi* is worth about 38 Grains and a half of *Naples* Money, that is, two Shillings wanting three Pence) but understanding the Road was not safe, was satisfy'd to stay for Company. At length finding some, I resolv'd on *Wednesday* the 2d, to go along with a *Georgian*; but whilst he was preparing his fardle, I sent for my Horses, and found the *Mahometan*, who had hir'd them, broke his Word with me, counterfeiting himself Sick. This disappointment fretted me,

P

see

seeing my Companions go away without hopes of finding any more at that time: Because the *Caravan* that came from *Erizerum*, had stopp'd half way for fear of Thieves.

Thursday 3d, I din'd in the Monastery of the *Jesuits*; and being inform'd on *Friday* 4th, that there was another small Company of *Georgians* going to *Nakcivan*, I resolv'd to go with them, the *Persian* Dominions being more free from Robbers than the *Turkish*; and accordingly I hir'd two Horses, at the rate above-mentioned, and prepar'd for my Journey.

Mount
Ararat.

Before I go further it is fit I give an account, that all the while I was at *Eriwan* I observ'd Mount *Ararat* was always clear in the Morning up to the top; but towards Evening the many Vapours the Sun draws, both from the Mountain itself, and from the Waters on the Plain, thicken the Air, and it Thunders and Lightens, and at last the Vapours dissolve in Rain. It is also to be noted that this Mountain is higher than *Taurus*, or *Caucasus*; and that being above the first Region of the Air, and always cover'd with Snow, it is as cold as possibly can be. However the *Dutch* Man's Relation is Fabulous, who tells us that in the Year 1670, being oblig'd to go up it, to cure a Religious Man, he spent 7 Days in the ascent, Travelling 15 Miles a Day; and lying at Night in certain Hermitages he met

Molef. desc.
del Univ.
to 2. p.
214.

with, at every five Leagues; and that he pass'd beyond the Bounds of the first Region of the Air, where the Clouds are form'd, the first of which he found Thick and Dark; and the others vehement Cold, and full of Snow; and that the 3d Cloud he pass'd through, he must have dy'd with Cold, had his dreadful Passage lasted but a quarter of an Hour longer; but that the next day as he mounted, the Air grew more Temperate; and that coming to the Cell of the Religious sick Man, he was inform'd, that in 20 Years he had liv'd on the Mountain, he never had felt Heat, Cold, or Wind, or seen any Rain fall. Besides that the good Hermit would give him to understand that *Noah's* Ark was still whole on the ridge of the Mountain, the good Temperature of the Air having sav'd it from rotting. An excellent invention of the *Dutch*-Man to persuade us the Terrestrial Paradise is there; but I and all that have seen it, have observ'd the top of it surrounded by a very thick Mist, from the Evening forwards, as has been said. It is true about the sides of it, there are many Hermitages inhabited by Religious Christians, who endure very much cold, there being not so much as a stump of a Tree about the Mountain to make Fire of. The *Armenians* call it *Mesefusar*, that is, Mountain of the Ark, and the *Persians* *A-gri*.

CHAP. II.

The Author continues his Journey to Tauris, with the Description of that City, and of Nakcivan.

Saturday 5th, that I might not lose the 2d opportunity, I caus'd my luggage to be loaded on my Man's Horse, and set out in hast, with *F. Dominick*; *F. Dalmatius* being gone that Morning to his Mission at *Sciamaki*, and *F. Martin* staying at *Eriwan*. We put on a good rate to overtake the *Georgian*, and others that were gone before. About an hour in the Night began the usual Lightning and Rain on mount *Ararat*; and we coming an hour after that to the Bank of the River *Gavuri-ciny*, which was much swollen and was to be forded, thought it more advisable to defer it till the next day. We lay in the Village of the same Name, where there were many *Kurds* having travel'd but 18 Miles. The smallness of the *Caravan* ser'a oblig'd

some *Turks*, who were with us, to lye on the Ground in the open Air.

Sunday 6th, at break of Day we cross'd the River with a Guide of the Country, because, being two Musket shot over, it is hard for Strangers to ford. Then we rode along a plain Country, some untill'd and some cultivated and improv'd with the cuts drawn from the Neighbouring Rivers to water the Corn, and other Grain; which has this great fault that it will not keep above a Year. This day we travell'd 30 Miles in 11 Hours, and at Night lay in the Village of *Satarach*, where instead of sleeping, every Man watch'd to Guard his Baggage, for fear of the Country People, who are most expert at robbing of Travellers.

Mun-



Gemelli. *Monday* 7th, we set out betimes, and held on our Journey through a Valley very dangerous for Robbers. Being got out of it, at 15 Miles end we forded another deep River. Here we found the *Rattars* or Guards of the Roads, who demanded an extraordinary sum of me, and *F. Dominick*, so that I was forc'd to make my way with Pistol in hand. They still would not quit *F. Dominick*, who seeing they held his Horse by the Bridle would have the other Pistol to fright the *Rattar*; but at last they seeing me resolute let him go, taking an *Abassi* a head. The Guards being again crept into their Cottage we pass'd through another deep River, into a cultivated Country, and two Miles further another River call'd *Arpaci* or *Arpasu*. This River tho' divided into three Branches is very rapid, and we had like to have perish'd in it. The stream before our Eyes carry'd away for a large Musket-shot, an *Armenian* Catholick Woman a horse-back with her Son behind her, and she was never the least daunted; no more than was another that rode behind a *Turk*, for in *Persia* three or four, will get upon a Horse. When the Water is higher by reason of the thawing of the Snow, they pass it a League lower. Riding on a long Fields altogether untill'd, we went to lye by the *Caravansera* of *Keraba*, having travell'd 30 Miles in 11 Hours.

Tav. lib. 1.
chap. 4. p.
43.

This Structure was square and one of the most Capacious and Beautifullest I had seen. There a plentiful Spring of good Water gushes out of a cut Stone. The *Armenians* say it was made by *Shem*, the Son of *Noah*. As for this Waters petrifying in a Ditch ten Miles off, *Tavernier* dreamt it, for none of the *Persians* or *Armenians* that were acquainted with the Country knew any thing of it, much less that the *Caravansera* was built with those Stones.

Tuesday 8th, Riding 15 Miles we came to *Nak-civan*, whence *F. Dominick* went directly for the Monastery of *Abarener*, whither he was bound, but with great fear of the *Rattars*, who are great Thieves. I was left alone expos'd to their Knavery, and they ask'd me 20 *Abassis* for my Horse, whereas the *Armenians* pay but two or three, and I had much to do to content them with nine. They use none so ill as they do the *Franks*, who must give them what they will have for fear of some affront, they being insolent in the highest degree. It may therefore be truly said that *Nak-civan* is the most troublesome

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place in *Persia*, on account of these *Rattars*, and like another *Erzerum* in *Turky*.

Some will have *Nak-civan*, to be the antientest City in the World, pretending that *Noah* when he came out of the *Ark* liv'd there; perhaps because it is but 30 Miles from Mount *Ararat*. They add that *Noah* was bury'd there, and they support their Opinion by the Etymology of the City, because *Nak* in the *Armenian* Tongue signifies a Ship, and *Civan*, staying. Whatever there is as to this Point, there is a sufficient Testimony of its Antiquity in the ruins of its Buildings reduced almost to nothing, by the continual Wars; and particularly by the Barbarity of *Amurat*, who utterley destroy'd it, leaving no token of the Noble *Moschs* built by the followers of *Hali*, and held as profane by the *Turks*; for which reason wherever their Arms come, they destroy them; as the *Persians* do by those of the *Turks*, through difference in Religion, whereof we shall speak hereafter.

In the new City, there is but one long and narrow Street, with one good *Basar*, and four large and excellent *Caravanseras*, for the conveniency of the many *Caravans*, that of necessity must pass that way. The Suburb is small, with Houses built like Caves. Near the City is a great Brick-building, above 70 Spans high, and Octangular, ending like an *Obelisk*. The entrance is through a great Gate, within which, there are winding Stairs up to two Towers, that are on the sides, and have no Communication with the *Obelisk*. They say it was erected by *Tamerlan*, when he went to Conquer *Persia*: The City and Country is govern'd by a *Cham*.

Finding my self in the Power of such base People as the *Rattars*, or Guards, who threaten bastinadoing at the same time they demand their Toll, I endeavour'd to fly the soonest I could. Accordingly, I provided that same Day to go along with a *Persian* Envoy, who was going to *Ispahan* to carry a Present to the King. Having therefore hir'd two Horses for my self and Man for 5 *Abassis* apiece, I set out of the City alone about three Hours after Night, to expect the Envoy at a place appointed. Two Miles from the Town I cross'd a River that falls into the *Araxes* on a good Bridge of twelve Arches, and at a small distance thence join'd the Envoy: We held on our way through a plain Country, cross'd by many cuts to water the Fields, which made their Waters

P 2

run

run thick and muddy, as does the *Araxes* itself.

1694. Having travell'd 27 Miles in 9 Hours, we rested on Wednesday 9th at *Zulfa*, to cross the *Araxes* there in a Boat. *Zulfa* at present may be said to be altogether disinhabited, because *Scia-Abas* the first, King of *Persia*, transplanted all the Inhabitants to new *Zulfa* in the Province of *Guilan*, and to other Places, that they might not be left expos'd to the continual incursions of the *Turks*; yet what remains of it under Barren Rocks, on the left of the *Araxes*, sufficiently demonstrates, it was no very considerable City, being a heap of Mud, and of Caves under Ground. The two *Caravan-seras* built by *Coggia Nazar* an *Armenian*, one on the one side of the River and the other on the other, are also ruin'd; and therefore only a few *Armenians* live there, because but a Mile from thence there is an excellent and fruitful Soil.

Araxes River. The *Araxes* being here confin'd between two Mountains is not narrow but deep, being swell'd by the Water of that River, which three Miles from thence we forded four times. It is thought to be the same that *Moses* and the Holy Scripture call *Gihon*, which Springs in the Terrestrial Paradise, because it has its Rise in the same Mountain, and at a small distance from *Euphrates*, the one running East and the other almost West. The Boat to Ferry over the *Araxes* is ill Built, and worse managed, having only two Oars to bear it up, so that when it comes to the further side, the rapid Stream carries it a Musket shot lower than it should go, and then it must be hal'd up with a Rope. The Ferriermen have half an *Abassi* a Horse, and there is one appointed by the *Rattar* of *Nak-Civan*, who delivers a Letter seal'd in Token that the Duties are paid, which if it were omitted, they would oblige them to pay again; so base and deceitful is the Officer, and he that employs him. There was formerly a Stone bridge, afterwards broke down by the King of *Persia*. Having pass'd the *Araxes*, we rode 14 Miles further in 4 Hours, and lay at the *Caravansera* of *Deradus*, which not being big enough to hold all, we were forc'd to lye in the open Air.

Thursday 10th, three hours before day, we entred into a Valley betwixt two Mountains, much frequented by Robbers, and being out of it, travell'd over a Barren Plain to the *Caravansera* of *Alachi*, the whole journey being 15

Miles, in 4 Hours. It is a brick Building, large, and square, with four Towers at the four Angles. Then riding 20 Miles further, we came to the Village of *Maranta*. Here they say *Noah's* Wife was bury'd. The Village is large or rather a Wood of Houses, by reason of the Trees and Gardens among them, which hinder the sight of the Mud-houses, at any distance. It is seated in an excellent fruitful Plain, three Miles in length, and two in breadth, with many more Villages about it. Here is a great noble *Caravansera*, with four Towers at the four Angles, and a curious Spring of the best Water I ever tasted out of *Italy*. Four Miles short of this place, I was met by the *Rattar*, or Guards of the ways. These are more to be fear'd than Robbers, because under colour of their employment they rob securely, being arm'd with knotty Clubs (a Weapon common to both Noble and ignoble in *Persia*) like *Banditti*, and they cheat *Franks* more than any other People, exacting what they please of them without respect to the Nature of the Commodities; and because they do not open the Bails, they will have as much for a parcel of Rags, as for the Richest Jewels in the World. The common Duty is 5 *Abassis* a Horse, but they are scarce satisfy'd with all a poor Traveller has.

Friday 11th, before day we entred upon a Mountainous Road, at the end whereof we met the other *Rattars* of *Schiachit*, who take an *Abassi* a parcel. After riding 10 Miles in three hours, we pass'd by the excellent *Caravansera* of *Jamghet*, well built of Brick, with four Towers at the Angles, and big enough to hold an hundred Persons. Having travell'd as many Miles more over a sandy Plain, we came to the City, or rather Forrest of *Sofiana*; for there are so many Trees, and delicate Gardens about it, that the Houses cannot be seen till a Man is upon them. Having stay'd there two Hours, we travell'd 18 Miles further in six Hours, and came to *Tauris* an Hour before Night. By the way I saw a Hill on which they told me *Amurat's* Army incamp'd in the Year 1638, when he besieg'd, took and burnt this City. They tell it as a notable instance of sedateness of *Scia Sophia* King of *Persia*, that he little or nothing concern'd at that News, said; let *Amurat* come forward, for he will Destroy himself; and at the same time gave orders, that all the Waters about should be turn'd away, there



there being no other Rivers beyond
Gemelli. *Tauris.* His Prediction prov'd true, for
1694. *Amurat* advancing with 100000 Fight-
ing Men through dry and barren Plains,
lost a great part of his Army, and was
forced to turn back with Dishonour.

Tauris
City.

Justin.
Epit. Hist.
l. i. p. 6.

Tauris, or *Ecbatane*, is seated in the Province of *Adirbeirzan*, (as the *Persians* call it) in 33 Degrees of Longitude, and 40 of Latitude. It was once the Metropolis of the Empire of the *Medes*, whose Original was 876 Years before the Birth of Christ. There is nothing but the bare shadow of its antient Splendor now remaining, having been the Stage on which the *Turks* and *Persians* exercis'd their Weapons during the Wars between those two Monarchs. What remains now is a great Plain, encompass'd on three sides with Mountains like *Erzerum*; and it resembles *Erivan* in the mutability of the Weather. Its compass is thirty *Italian Miles*, by reason of abundance of Gardens and open Places in it. The Houses are ill Built of Mud; but the *Bazars* and *Caravanseras* are good, because the convenience of its Situation draws a vast Number of Merchants, as well *Muscovites* and *Tartars*, as *Arabs*, *Georgians*, *Mingrelians*, *Indians*, *Turks*, *Persians*, and several others with all sorts of Commodities; more particularly with Silk brought from the Province of *Guilan*, and other Places; so that a great Number of People is employ'd in that Work. Tho' its compass be thirty Miles, and a *Jesuit* compares it to *Rome*, in his Account of it, yet I do not believe it contains above 250000 Inhabitants, both because of the Gardens and Fields, and by reason the Houses are but thin of People.

Scian-casan
Tower.

Sunday 12th, I went to see the Tower of *Scian-Casan*, which some without any good Ground for it, will have to be that of *Babel*, mention'd in Holy Writ. It is made of Brick 220 of my Paces in compass, its Diameter 40 Paces, and the thickness of the Wall 12, but it is ruin'd on two sides. A winding Stair-case of 110 Steps goes up to a Room on the top of it, and on the out-sides of the Walls of this Room there are Ciphers and Characters. At the bottom is a Place with Iron Gates, where the *Persians* say the Founder lies Bury'd.

Next, I went to see the *Atmeidan*. This is a great Square, to which most of the Merchants and Artificers resort, because there is a better Trade there than elsewhere. The chief thing sold there are good Horses, and those Cheap,

(for I bought one for ninety *Abassis*, which at *Naples* would be worth 300) as also Shagreen-Skins, whereof there is a great Consumption, all Gentile People wearing Shooes and Boots of them. They make them of Horses, Asses, and Mules Hides, but only of the Rump part.

The *Mosch* of *Hassan-Bascia* being in this Place, I went to see it. This Structure was Erected by the *Osmanlis*, without sparing Cost or Time. At the first coming in, there appears a Front curiously wrought in Brick, with Reliefs of Marble carv'd after the *Italian* manner in Flowers, Birds and Fruits of several sorts. The Gate is all of one entire piece of white Marble, like that of *Osmanla*, which leads into a Cloister, or square Court, and then to a treble Arch, on the sides of the *Mosch*, without any Ornament. At the end thereof there are two small Gates to the *Mosch*, whose Front with two high Towers is of the same sort of Work; but the tops of the Towers are gone to Ruin. The *Mosch* is only one great *Cupola* of the same Marble curiously wrought with *Arabick* Characters in Blew and Gold, and in some places curiously painted with fine Flowers, in others with odd Fancies. The Nich, whither few go to Pray, is on the side of the *Meidan*, or Square; therefore the Gates are only on the sides answering to the two Cloisters, which are uniformly Built one on each Hand.

The upper Gallery of the *Mosch*, is from the *Cupola* supported by twelve Arches, three on every side, whereof those next the aforesaid East and West Gates are equal, the others greater, but those on the North and South are kept shut. At the upper part of every Angle there are as it were separate Balconies, to see what is doing. On the sides of the *Niche* are two curious Marble-Stones as clear as Alabaster; on the left is a Pulpit with an Ascent of fifteen Steps; on the Pavement poor Mats, because the *Persians* make small Account of that *Mosch*, and think it Polluted, as having serv'd *Osman's* Followers. Behind it at the North-end is a large square Garden, with Trees of several sorts.

Near this *Mosch* is another Structure, with the same outward Ornaments, now going to Ruin. They call it the place of Waters, because there the *Persians* wash their Dead. In the same place is a Church belonging to the *Armenians*, almost fallen to Decay, whither they say *St. Helen* sent a piece of the Cross.

At

At the end of the *Meidan* is a great Palace Built by the *Turks*, whilst they were Masters of that Place. Every Evening there is a pleasant Concert of Drums and Trumpets in a Gallery of this Place.

About Noon, the *Cham*, or Governor's Lieutenant made his publick Entry into the City, attended by 500 Horse he brought with him; besides 1500 that went out to meet him. But before we proceed, it will be convenient to say something of the other Lieutenant his Predecessor, who Dy'd a little before in *Tauris*, because he was always a great Friend to the Christians, and special Protector of the *French Capucin* Missioners, whom in publick Assemblies he placed by his Side, to the great Regret of the *Persian* Priests.

A notable Story of a *Persian*. His Name was *Sultan-Bigian Beg*, Son to the Great *Russian Cham*, call'd *Spasalar*, great General of the *Persian* Army, which drove the *Osmanlines* or *Turks* out of the Country of *Tauris*: The Great *Russian* had a Grandson; and *Sultan Bigian*, who Dy'd *Cham* of *Erivan* was his Uncle. His Family had always kept in the King's Favour, being of the Blood of the *Georgian* Princes. But *Bigian* was Disgraced during the Command of *Armat-Dolet*, or the *Grand Vizier* his Enemy, who made the King look upon him as a Mad-man and Drunkard. This Man we speak of, seeing Fortune frown on him, after Governing *Sciamaki*, retir'd to Live a private Life at *Tauris*, with 25 Servants, placing his greatest Delight in Drinking the best Wine in the Country. His Nephew *Rustan Cham*, now General of the Army, and *Divan-Beg*, or chief of all the Judges, being then in the King's Service, and well advanc'd in his Favour, he one Day bid him ask some Grace. He modestly answer'd he was satisfy'd with the Honour and Bread he daily receiv'd; but the King still pressing him to ask some Grant, he said, *Since Your Majesty Orders it, I beg nothing but that you restore my Family to the same Honour it enjoy'd in the time of my Grand-father Rustan*. The King ask'd whether he had any Kinsman to Prefer. *Rustan* reply'd, *There was his Uncle Sultan Bigian Beg*; and the King enquiring, where he Liv'd, he said, *He Eat the Bread His Majesty's Goodness had left him at Tauris*. The King said, *That Mad-man, your Uncle Sultan Beg. He is not Mad*, said *Rustan*, *but our Enemies have represented him as such to Your Majesty; and if you please to let him appear in your Presence, you will*

be sensible how much you have been impos'd upon. Well, said the King, *send for him*. Sir, reply'd *Rustan*, *we have sent for him several times, and he would never come, nor will he now, without your special Command*. I will do it, answer'd the King, *and will send the Son of a Cham to Conduct him*. Sir, said *Rustan*, *he is not in a Condition to present an Envoy of Your Majesty's, and therefore it will suffice to send him a written Order by an Express*. In short, three Expresses were sent with the King's Orders in *March 1692*. He being a Drinking, when they came, tofs'd off a Glas to the King's Health, laying His Majesty's Letter on his Head, and from that time never drank Wine. Being come to *Ispahan*, he went to the *Ala-Capi*, or House of Refuge to which all Criminals retire; as also those who are sent for by the King before they know whether it is for their Good or Evil. The King being inform'd by his Nephew that he was come, and lay in the Royal House of Sanctuary, order'd him to be brought out, and a good Apartment fitted for him, because he would see him. *Bigian* being brought before him, two Days after he receiv'd him very Courteously, saying to him in token of Affection, *Baba*, that is Grandfather, you are welcome; and asking whether he drank Wine, he answer'd, *That tho' he drank merrily during his Abode at Tauris, yet after receiving His Majesty's Orders, and drinking one Glas to his Health, he had never tasted any more*. Then the King causing Wine to be brought, made him Drink out of his own Gold Cup, and then Smoke out of his Gold Pipe; then he gave him the Post his Father the Great *Rustan* held of Great General, but he Generously refus'd it, pleading his Age, and beseeching His Majesty, if he thought fit to bestow it on his Nephew *Rustan*; whose Lieutenant at *Tauris* he was contented to be, the Government of *Tauris* being ever united to the Generalship, which the King Graciously granted, and within a few Months he went away to his Government. 'Tis true, his Nephew did not receive the Profits belonging to the Post of *Cham* of *Tauris*; for the Great General never goes thither, but only receives a Sum of Mony of the Lieutenant he appoints, who make their Advantage of the rest. This is the true History of *Sultan Beg*, the great Friend of the *French Capucin's*; and I hope the Reader will not dislike this short Digression made on his Account.

During

During my Stay at *Tauris*, I Lodg'd at the *Capucin's*, who have a good Church and Monastery there, through the Bounty of *Mirza-Ibrahim*, who was Intendant of that Province, and a great Lover of the liberal Sciences, wherein he would be instructed together with his Sons, by *F. Gabriel Chinon*, then Guardian.

Sunday 13th, passing through the *At-meidan*, I saw a Man gently beaten on the Soles of his Feet with a Wand, being bound to a high Post, at which they shoot with Arrows upon publick Festivals. Then I took notice of certain Religious *Persians*. They wear a Turbant like the *Turks*, with a Border about it, and the middle part sharp, and cover'd with red Cloth.

After Dinner, I mounted a Horse-back, and rode about the City. We pass'd over several Bridges on the River *Schienkaic*, which runs through the midst of *Tauris*, and has excellent Water; but sometimes it swells so high, that it over-flows a great part of the City. I observ'd there were among the Houses several Corn-Fields, as well as Orchards. There are also in them several Tombs, some round, and others in other shapes, ending sharp at top, and cover'd on the out-side with excellent black and blew Tiles, full of Characters, and *Arabick* Letters. Returning to the Monastery, I met a Man a Horse-back, with a Turbant after the *Turkish* Fashion, a Feather on the Forehead, and on the sides two upright Horns of Tin fix'd to the Turbant, between which stood up a thing shap'd like a Cilinder, cover'd with red and blew Silk. They told me it was a *Giarci* (there are four of them in the City) which are Chiefs of the Sergeants, and serve to proclaim the Price of Bread, and the Sentences given by the Governour, and his Lieutenant.

Mony falling short to continue my Journey, and pay for the Horse I had bought; a Catholick *Armenian* of *Zulfa*, whose Name was *Malachy*, lent me 80 Crowns to be paid him at *Ispahan*, upon my bare Word; a Courtesy I should scarce have met with in *Christendom*.

Scien-evi
Palace.

Monday 14th, I went to see the Royal Palace call'd *Scien-evi*. I thought to have found a noble Structure, but was disappointed, for the first Floor was only three Rooms and a Gallery, which leads into the Garden. A Man must have a care here not to tread upon a certain round piece of white Marble; because the *Persians* holding it in great Veneration, as a Stone of *Mortu-sale*,

whoever should Transgress would be Bastonado'd. I saw there two indifferent Gardens with Almond, and Apricot-Trees, whereof there is great plenty in *Tauris*, and several forts of Roses. In one of them was a small Apartment, to take the Air in Summer: Having given the Gardiner a Gratuity, I went on to take a better View of the *Mosch* of *Osmanlu*, which is the best in *Tauris*, and the *Persians* let it go to Ruin as Polluted and Heretical; because it was Built by the *Sunnis*, who are Followers of *Omar*, as was said above. This Structure is square, and the Front of it over the great Gate, to which there is an Ascent of eight Steps, is curiously wrought, almost like *Mosaick* of curious Blew, Purple, black and white Tiles, with two high Towers closing above like a Turbant, cover'd with the like Work, but rais'd. Within there are winding Stairs, but that on the left was half beaten down by Lightning. The *Mosch* within is adorn'd with curious Painting, after the *Moorish* Fashion, and with Ciphers, and *Arabick* Letters in Blew, and Gold. The Gate of the *Mosch* is not four Foot wide, but all of one piece of Transparent white Stone, 24 Foot high, and 12 in breadth. Here is a Mistake in the Author mentioning two several breadths which I know not how to reconcile, the Reader may judge of it. The Cupola is 34 paces Diameter, with the same sort of Work within, scarce to be out-done by the curious Pencil. It is supported by 12 Marble Pillars within, and by 16 without, which are very high, and each of them six Foot square, with Niches on the out-sides to leave the Shooes, as is Practis'd by the *Mahometans*. About it is a Rail with Doors to go from one side to the other. There is a way round three parts of it, for the fourth leads to another less Cupola, but more Beautiful, and Gilt. The Pavement is of bright Marble, like that of the Front, and the Pillars are cas'd with it eight Spans from the Ground. This Cupola is curiously adorn'd about with a sort of Violet colour Work, set off with Flowers of Gold; and the Pavement is two Spans lower than that of the first. The out-side of the great Cupola is cover'd with green Tiles, with small white Flowers, and the other with white Stars on a black Ground, which are Pleasant to behold. Within the *Mosch* on the left Hand, is a Walnut-Tree Seat rais'd upon six Steps leaning against the Wall of the first Cupola; and on the right another

Osmanlu
Mosch.

Note.

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 1694.
 another of the same sort, but better Workmanship. About it is a small Rail, with 14 Steps up to it. On the South-side there are two great Transparent Stones, which look red when the Sun shines on them. This they say is a sort of *Alabaster*, made by the petrifying of the Water, a Day's Journey from *Tauris*, where it soon hardens in a Ditch. It is much Esteem'd by that Nation, who place it on their Tombs, and make Cups and other Curiosities of it, which they present as a Rarity at *Ispahan*. All People unanimously affirm'd it was petrify'd Water; denying that positively which *Tavernier* speaks of at the *Caravanserai* above mention'd.

On the other side of the Street, opposite to this *Mosch*, is still standing the Front of the Palace of the Great Priest, or *Scheh-Iman*, artificially Built of several colour'd Stones.

Heathen Temples.

In my Return home, I went to see two Heathen Temples, call'd *Uria-Schiageret*, that is, Master and Scholar. They are both of them at a distance from the Street. That on the left, coming into the City, is the least, and Square, with two great Gates, and 30 Windows about it. The Cupola which had been Round, was fallen. The Temple on the right is of the same Structure, but much bigger. Between the great Gate and the *Atmeidán*, there are two vast Pillars standing, which appear to have supported another Temple near the other two. The Fronts are of the same Workmanship before mention'd; but the Structure, tho' very thick, is of good Brick, and so antient, that it cannot last long.

Two Musket-shot further is the curious large Front of a *Mosch* of the same Workmanship, going to Ruin. Going in (leaping over the Marble of *Mortofale*;) there appears a fine large Garden full of several sorts of Trees and Flowers; at the end whereof there are some great Fabricks, which they say belong'd to an old Pagan Temple, call'd *Aluscian-Taghi*, which had two Gates on the sides, and one in the Front. There is also a great Square enclos'd with good Brick Walls, which serves upon publick Rejoycings.

Taking the Advice of the *Capucins*, who courteously entertain'd me as their Guest, I left the Company of *Persians*, to prevent being robb'd by them on the Road, or at least by the *Rattars*; who because they are not paid by the *Mahometans*, among other Insolencies delight

in stripping a *Frank*. These Fellows are so Insatiable, that no Purse can hold out to satisfy them, as has been said before; tho' in *Tauris*, because it was a City, they took but five *Abassis* of me. For this Reason I resolv'd for the more safety to expect some Company of Merchants, who do not use to Travel unprovided.

Tuesday 15th, a *Jesuit*, a Bare-foot *Carmelite*, and an *Augustinian* set out for *Erzerum*, after they had been several Days in the same Monastery of the *Capucins*. They rode on Horses of their own bought at *Tauris*, there being none to Hire, but when *Caravans* go. These Fathers had gone before by the way of *Bagdat*; and when they came to *Karmanica*, a City on the Frontiers, four Days Journey from *Babylon*, the *Cham*, or *Bassa* would not suffer them to proceed; so that they were oblig'd to turn back to *Hamirdan*, by the way of *Tauris*, in order to go thence to *Aleppo*, or *Trabezond*, and thence to *Constantinople*; but in their Return they were robb'd by the *Rattars* both of their Cloaths and Money, especially the *Portuguese Augustinian*, who lost eighty Crowns, and was imprison'd with his Servant; nor did the other two *French* Fathers meet with better Usage.

We must not forget to observe, that *Salt Mines*. about *Tauris* there are good Mines of white Salt; that within the City there are excellent fresh Waters, to which there is sometimes an Ascent of fifty, or sixty Steps; and that there is a Mint as well as at *Erivan*, where during my stay, they Coin'd *Abassis*.

The *Capucins* Monastery being near the *Meidan*, every Evening at Sun-setting, I heard the ungrateful Musick of Drums and Trumpets, being the Signal for all Persons to shut up Shop, and for the Guards to scour about the *Bazars*. At the same time the *Mullahs* cry out from the tops of Houses, not from the Towers like the *Turks*, calling the People to Prayers. About an Hour and a half after Night, an untuneable Drum beat, being the Sign for all Persons to keep within Doors; after which none may go without a Light upon pain of Imprisonment. Two Hours before Day the same Drum beat again, to give Notice to Shop-Keepers, that the Guard, or Watch was going off, after having walk'd about the *Bazars* all Night, and therefore every Man must look to his own.

Wednesday

Wednesday 16th, F. George of Ven-
Gemelli. dosme, a French-Man, and Superior of
1694. the Monastery, carry'd me in the Morn-
A great ing to see the Bazar Built at a vast Ex-
Bazar. pence by Mirza-Sadoc, whilst he was
Great, and Intendant of the Province of
Abderghiam, all cover'd with large Bricks,
or Tiles hardned in the Sun. Near it
we saw a Caravansera, a Bath, and Coffee-
House, Built by the same Man, with
a prodigious Trench fifty Foot deep,
sixty in length, and forty in breadth,
to keep Ice, taken out of a Pool, where
the Water soon Freezes. Close by it is
a College to instruct the Persian Youth,
with a Mosch in it.

Next we went to see the Mosch, Car-
avansera, Coffee-House, and Ice-House
made by Mirza-Ibrahim, Brother to
Mirza-Sadoc, who had the Charge of
Mustofi Mumalek, or High Chancellor.
There is a great Gate to the Mosch,
whose Front and Cupola are curiously
adorn'd with Tiles of several Colours
ingeniously plac'd. First there is a fine,
but small Garden, on the one side where-
of is a little, but neat Mosch, with two
little Towers on the sides, handsomely
cover'd with the same Tiles. Opposite
to it is a Divan with such like Towers,
and a great Fountain of Water before
it to make the Dwelling the pleasanter,
all adorn'd after the same manner with
Stones. At a small distance is another
little Mosch, set off after the same man-
ner.

Mirza-
Taers Pa-
lace.

Thence we went to the Palace of
Mirza-Taer, Son to Mirza-Ibrahim, then
Vizier of Abderghiam (the best of four
there are in Persia) in his Father's Place,
who was employ'd in receiving the Re-
venues of two Provinces. The outward
Structure was of Mud, made but a base
Appearance; but going in I saw a fine
Garden with several Water-works, and
beautify'd with Trees and Flowers.
Thence I went in to see the Summer
Apartments. The Aram, or Womens
Apartment, and a stately Divan, tho'
not finish'd, to Administer Justice; all
adorn'd with Marble, and well enough
painted after the Country fashion. On
the two sides there were four curious
Marble Stones fix'd in the Wall, being
almost as fine as Alabaster, with a great
Fountain in the middle. Here I much
admir'd the Simmetry and Proportion
the Persians observe in their Apartments,
as well in the Windows and Balconies,
as in the Roofs and Paintings. On the
other side of the Garden was the Win-
ter Apartment then finish'd, with a lit-

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tle Divan, but curiously painted, and
gilt with several Flowers in Blew and
Gold after the Arabian manner. We
also saw another little but curious Gar-
den, and another Divan well set out,
adjoining to which there were very de-
licate little Rooms, all Gilt and Painted,
with some Looking-Glasses fix'd on the
Wall, opposite to one another, as also
a Chimney adorn'd with the same Glass,
which with the Reflexion of the Sun
dazled the Eyes. The Floor was cover'd
with good Persian Carpets, and in the
Rooms there were Alabaster Fountains
to please the Eye; the whole well en-
ough contriv'd by the Ingenious Persi-
ans, according to the aforesaid Mirza-
Taer's good Fancy. He has also Built a
good Caravansera in the Meidan, which
is therefore call'd Mirza-Taer, and ano-
ther where Money was actually Coin'd;
both of them large and good Structures.
He has also an admirable Garden on
that side of the City next Ispahan, in
which there are all sorts of European
Fruit, and by it two Pleasure-Houses.
Near this Palace are those Built by Mir-
za-Sadoc, and Mirza-Ibrahim, his Father
and Uncle, which are truly Magnificent
both as to their Structure, and inward
Ornament.

Returning by the Mint, I went in to
see a large Cupola close by it, which
the Persians call Eyssara, in which were
the richest, and most valuable Commo-
dities of the City. Near it is the Gold-
smiths, and Silversmiths Street, with
stately Arches of curious Brick, but co-
ver'd like all the Streets and Bazars in
the East.

Thursday 17th, passing through the
Place where the Gallows stands, I took
notice of a Superstition, or Folly of the
Barren Persian Women; who go three
or four times under the Gallows, whilst
the Bodies of Melafactors who were actu-
ally Hanging; which I should scarce have
believ'd, had I not seen it. They ima-
gine the dead Body can infuse Fruitful-
ness into the Womb, and make them
breed Children; and so they Conceit,
and hold it for Certain, That passing
several times over the Aqueduct, which
conveys the Water from the Bath, where
Men are actually Bathing, they receive
the same Virtue of Conceiving. I be-
lieve the Bath may make them Fruitful,
but not the Gallows with the dead Bo-
dies.

Superstiti-
on of Bar-
ren Wo-
men.

Instead of Razors, the Men pull up
their Beard, and the Women their Down
with Pincers, which puts the Men to
Q great

Gemelli. great Pain, drawing out the Root that it may not grow again, for they fear that if they should take it off with an Ointment, as the *Turkish* Women do, the Skin would grow hard.

Gold and Copper Mines. Three Miles from *Tauris* is a Gold Mine, but the Cost being greater than the Profit, they have given over working at it. Four Days Journey from the same City is another of Copper, which brings a great Income into the King's Coffers.

Whilst I expected the setting out of one *Jus-Baschi*, a *Georgian* Renegado, who was to go to the Court of *Ispahan*; to avoid Idleness, I rode to take the Air out of the City, in the Company of a *French-Man*, who was acquainted with the Country, and well known by Persons of Quality. When we had gone two Miles, we saw upon the right Hand on a Mountain a Bridge fifty Paces long with stately Arches, of no use to the Publick, because there never was any

Water there, nor is it possible to carry any thither. Asking what that Bridge was Built for, they told me that a *Mullah* desiring to be spoken of by the King had Built it; knowing that *Scia-Abas* the First, King of *Persia*, was to come to *Tauris*, and could not come any other way. The King accordingly coming, and enquiring after that useless Structure, the *Mullah*, who was at hand answer'd. Sir, it was I that Built it, that when Your Majesty came you might enquire who did it. Others say it was Built by a Woman.

Going two Miles from thence, and looking towards the North, on a Mountain not far distant from the City, I saw the Ruins of a *Mosch*, and below it a Fort and Temple both destroy'd and abandon'd by the *Persians*, as being Built by the *Turks*; but there is a Monastery entire on the Brink of the Precipice.

CHAP. III.

The Description of the Cities on the Road to Kom.

Returning to the Monastery in the Evening, I was inform'd that the *Jus-Baschi*, who is a Captain of 100 Men of the Country Troops was upon his Departure; therefore making the best Provision I could in haste, I set out at two in the Morning on Friday the 18th, with *Malachy* the *Armenian*. We went to the *Jus-Baschi's* House, and stay'd half an Hour till he was ready, after which he mounted with only twelve Followers, most of them unarm'd; and this because, tho' the King pays for 100 Men, either he has them not, or else Lifts Towns-men, who have never handled Weapons, and makes his Advantage of their Pay. We Travell'd all Night over the Plain between barren Mountains, and at break of Day after riding twenty Miles in seven Hours, came to the *Caravansera* of *Sciemi*, Built betwixt those Mountains by *Scia-Sofi*, King of *Persia*. It is a good Structure, with a noble Front fit to contain 100 Persons, and their Horses; because the Country between *Tauris* and *Ispahan*, and *Ormus* and *Ispahan* is Inhabited, and there is need of such good large *Caravanseras*. Here the *Rattars* are, who take an *Abassi* for every Horse; but I paid it not on

the Score of the *Jus-Baschi*, who was much respected on that Road. Having first climb'd, and then gon down a prodigious Mountain, we pass'd by a Lake full of wild Geese. Thence there are two Roads to *Ispahan*; the one through *Ardevil* and *Casbin*, leaving the Lake on the right, and riding along the Mountains; and the other through *Kom* and *Kasbian*, leaving the Lake on the left. This way we took, riding ten Miles through a well cultivated Country to the Village of *Agia-Aga*, to which we came before Noon. There we found a good *Caravansera*; but *Malachy* and I Lodg'd in a *Turk's* House. The Night at this time of the Year is very Cold in *Persia*, and the Day as hot as in *Italy*. We lay still the remaining part of Saturday 19th; And,

Sunday 20th, waiting for the Cool of the Night to set out, my Horse getting loose, took such a Run, that I thought I should never have seen him again; but a *Moor* mounting another follow'd, and brought him back. At Sun-set we continu'd our Journey over the Plain, and there fell a mighty Rain, which lasted several Hours, making it so Dark, that we could not see our way; so that we wander'd



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1694. wander'd half the Night. This oblig'd us to take a Guide at a Village, who Conducted us to the *Caravanfera* of *Gulach*, having rode fifteen Miles in six Hours. My Horse falling in the Dark into a Ditch, broke one of my Pistols, and I was well wash'd.

Caravan-feras in Persia. Monday 21st, we rested about an Hour in this *Caravanfera*; and then set out to enjoy the cool Air; not that our Lodging was bad, the *Caravanfera* having been Built with great Cost by a rich Citizen of the Province of *Gulan*, whose Name it bears. Ten Miles from it we pass'd by the *Caravanfera* of *Dautler*, Built with Stone, whereas the others are of Brick. In *Persia* there are good *Caravanferas* every four Leagues. Eight Miles further we came before Noon to the Village of *Caracciman*, seated in a Valley. The Country we Travell'd through that Night was Plain, but the next Day Mountainous, yet well Cultivated, there being no part of it wast; and I can avouch there is no Plain so Green on the Frontiers of *Persia* or *Turkey* at that time of the Year. This is the Reason that Provisions are so Plentiful, that a Man may have Bread enough to serve him a Day for a *Tornese* of *Naples*, which is less than a Penny. But the Ground is stiff, and they are forc'd to Plow with four or six Oxen; a Child sitting on the Yoke of the foremost to keep them going.

The Georgian tells his Life. The *Jus-Baschi* would needs have me dine with him, expressing much kindness, a thing rare among the *Persians*, who make a Scruple of eating with Christians, and think their touching of Meat, pollutes it; but he being a *Georgian* Renegado was not so precise. During the Dinner he told me all his Life, saying, he was the Son of a Prince of *Georgia*, and had but lately recover'd his Liberty, after two Years Imprisonment at *Tauris*, where he had Chains on his Hand, Neck and Feet, having been misrepresented to the King by his Enemies, and being now restor'd to favour, he was going to see the King, and a Brother he had that was Surveyer of the Mint, whom he had not seen for 14 Years past. Others told me he had been Imprison'd on account of his Extortious in some Villages of *Armenians*, where he had the Command, who at last sent their complaints to Court. We discours'd about the opportunity the King of *Persia* then had, of making War upon the *Turk*, and how easy it were for him to Conquer what he pleas'd. He said, he and every body

else desir'd it, but that the King being wholly taken up with the Pleasures of the *Aram*, let slip so favourable an opportunity.

The Sun being almost down, and the heat of his Rays abated, we set forwards and travelling 21 Miles in 7 Hours thro' an uneven Country, but cultivated and well Peopl'd, we came to the Village of *Jus-Baschi-Candi*, leaving behind us the open Town of *Turcoman*, seated in the midst of a Valley. The *Jus-Baschi* continu'd his *Persian* civility at Dinner, making use of his Hand instead of a Spoon, and taking up the Rice by handfuls to put into mine, and *Malachy's* Plate; a Swinish civility in *Europe*, but a great compliment in *Asia*. There the Rice is brought in one Dish, and the Flesh in another, which are distributed by the chief of the Guests. When Dinner was over, the *Jus-Baschi* stood a good while with his Hands up in the Air, waiting for warm Water to wash off the Grease.

Some of the Inhabitants came to see me in this Village, the Report being spread abroad, that I was an Ambassador sent to the King, by the Christian Princes, and would not make known my Character, till I came to *Ispahan*. They were the more easily induc'd to believe it by their own Practice, because they receive any Person as an Ambassador, that brings but a Letter of recommendation to the King from any Prince in *Italy*; and therefore he that comes in this Nature, is receiv'd with the great Honour by first *Cham*, upon the Frontiers, who at the King's expence Conducts him to another Governor's Liberty, till he is brought to the King at *Ispahan*. Several Merchants procure such Letters, to spare the charge of Customs, and the Guards on the Roads, as also to be carry'd all the way at the King's expence. Here we were warn'd to be upon our Guard for fear of Thieves; because the Inhabitants of the Village of *Miana* being run away, not being able to pay the Taxes, and having no other way to live, many of 'em wandred about to Rob Travellers. This did not much fright me, knowing they were most of them unarm'd.

We rested here all the remaining part of the day in a *Persian's* House, and set out towards Night. An hour after a good shower of Rain fell, which made it so dark that we were forced to take a Lanthorn and a Guide. After 3 Hours riding the *Jus-Baschi* would rest near a

Easiness of the *Persians*.

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River. We set forward again two Hours before day, and travelling over Barren Mountains and Valleys about Sun-rising, after riding 15 Miles in 5 Hours, found our selves in the afore-said Village of *Miana*, a dirty place, as being seated among Marshes. There was no Soul in it; for as I said, they were all fled, leaving their Houses and Goods. There were only two *Rattars*, who durst not come near us. We saw an excellent *Caravansera* new built, and another gone to Ruin. The Country was not bad, and will certainly be peopled again.

A high Mountain.

Four Miles from the Village we cross'd the great River of *Miara*, where there was once a Bridge of thirty Arches, whereof only six are now standing. We forded over all the four Branches it is divided into, the last of which is so deep that in Winter there is no passing it a Horse-back, but on Camels. Then we ascended a Mountain call'd *Kaplantu*, the highest in the Road to *Is-pahan*, which on the other side has a long upright descent to the River, over which there is an excellent Bridge of three Arches, newly built, call'd *Casilofan*. This River as well as that before mention'd, after crossing the Province of *Ghilan*, where they are both of them drawn out into several Trenches to water the Corn, run down to the *Caspian* Sea. The Villages about this Mountain pay nothing to the King, because they belong to the *Mosch* of *Ar-devil*, where there are some Tombs of Kings of *Persia*, and that of *Scia-Sofi* accounted a Saint, for which reason all the *Persians* go thither in Pilgrimages. That *Mosch* has 80000 Crowns Revenue, distributed among the Poor, and the Priests belonging to it. Not far from the afore-said Bridge is a Rock apart from the rest, where there appear some remains of ancient Fortifications, and of a Castle on the Top. The *Fus-Baschi* told me a Woman had built that Fort, she whilst she liv'd being possess'd of the City and Places about the Mountains, which could never be taken from her because of the narrow Passes on the Hills. Having travell'd 33 Miles in 11 Hours through a barren Country, abounding only in Liquorice and Thieves, we halted before Noon at the *Caravansera* of *Sin-Malava*, seated on a Mountain, with seven well built Towers, which at a distance make it look like a Castle. There were abundance of Partridges all about, but as hard as Stones,

and of another Colour and Taft than ours; there are some like ours, but on the Mountains.

It is not so safe Travelling in *Persia*, as I had thought; for a Man may light upon Robbers, or *Ciapars*, which are the King's Messengers, who carry Letters from one Province to another, by Order of the Governors or Princes. These have Authority to take away any Man's Horse they meet on the Road, which they usually send back a day or two after, and they but a Stranger to very great Trouble.

Dangers on the Road in Persia.

The *Rattars* having Intelligence sent them by the *Odabaschi*, or Overseer of the *Caravansera* came in the Evening, but, seeing the *Fus-Baschi*, durst not demand the Duty; but asking him leave to practise their cheating Power upon me and *Malachy*, he chid and sent them away.

Wednesday 23d, about Night we continu'd our Journey, and about two Hours after began the usual Rain with Thunder and Lightning. Two Hours before day we pass'd by the *Caravansera* of *Sarcesima*, well built of Brick, with four Towers at the four Angles. So we Travell'd 15 Miles in five Hours and a half through a barren Country, and unfit for Plowing. Having rested an Hour and a half we advanc'd 25 Miles farther in 7 Hours and a half, and came at last in the Morning, to the Village of *Nuhba*, where we unloaded the Beasts in the *Caravansera* call'd *Nichbe*. To avoid so often repeating the same thing, I must observe once for all, that the *Caravanseras* in *Persia*, are all built with Brick, after the same Model, and are Large and Magnificent; but so uniform and well proportion'd, that they are not inferior to the best Structures in *Europe*. About the Court are the Rooms for Travellers, who if they will not put their Horses into the large Stables, which are behind, may tie them before their Rooms to a Stone with a hole in it, plac'd there for that purpose. In the Stables over the Mangers, there are Niches for the Muletiers or Grooms to lie, who naturally love being there better than elsewhere. This *Caravansera* of *Nichbe* has four Towers at the Angles, and an excellent Front, where on a long piece of fine Marble, the Founders Name and Quality is writ in *Arabick* Characters; for these *Caravanseras* are commonly built by Rich Persons for the Benefit of their Souls. The lower part of the Structure is of white and red Stone, mix'd like Marble.

Caravanse-ras describ'd.

Ha-



Having rested the remaining part of *Gemelli*. *Thursday* 24th, we set out before Mid-
1694. night by the Light of a Lanthorn, which
was not so clear but that we went out
of our way twice, which we afterwards
found out by the natural Brightness of
the serene Air. Having Travell'd 24
Miles in eight Hours through an uneven
Country, we came to *Zangan*, a large
Town, but Dirty, whose Houses were
ill Built with Mud, and in no Order.
But there are excellent Gardens with
variety of Fruit and Flowers, as also
Trees for Fuel, planted by the Industry
of the Natives (a Rarity in that part
of the Country, where there is not a
Tree to be seen all about to shelter a
Man) and with that Wood they give
the Fire some nobler Matter to feed on,
it being generally made of the Dung of
their Beasts. What I most admir'd, is,
That tho' there was such scarcity of
Trees, yet the Gentry and Country
People all carry'd Clubs in their Hands,
which they call *Ash*.

We thought to have gone on that
same Day to *Sultania*, but considering
the Horses had the Day before Travell'd
forty Miles and better, and to save Ex-
posing our selves to the Sun, we alter'd
our Minds, and stay'd in a Coffee-House,
where we rested all *Friday* 25th, enjoy-
ing the fresh Air all the while by the
noise of a cold large Spring which rises
in the midst of it, preferring our Stay
here before the good *Caravanseera* at *Zin-
gan*. The *Rattars* came to the Coffee-
House, but durst not demand any thing.
After Supper we mounted, ten *Turks*,
and two of the Kings Soldiers joyning
us. We Travell'd without a Lanthorn
through a plain dry Country, the Sky
being Bright, and passing by the little
Caravanseera of *Disa*, at the end of nine
Miles, at break of Day on *Saturday* 26th,
after Travelling fifteen Miles further we
came to *Sultania*.

Sultania
City.

This City was formerly several times
the Court of the Kings of *Persia*; and
the great Structures laid Level with the
Ground, make it appear that it would
still be one of the best Cities in the
Kingdom, had it not been destroy'd by
its own Kings, and not by *Tamerlan*.
There still remain the Ruins of three
Moschs, whose Cupola's and Towers
were cover'd with Tiles of several Co-
lours. One of them has the two front
Towers still standing, but without the
tops by reason of their extraordinary
height.

Sultania is seated in a Valley, whose
greatest breadth from East to West is
not above 3 Leagues. Its Compass is
of many Miles, because of the abun-
dance of Fields, Gardens, and ruin'd
Houses there are in it. Some few poor
Houses still standing are ill contriv'd;
the *Basar* is only one long Street, and
the *Caravanseera* but very indifferent.
The Air is not wholesome by reason of
the neighbouring Marshes. It is govern'd
by a *Cham*, to whom the adjacent Parts
are also subject. We should not have ta-
ken the way of *Sultania*, but another two
Miles from it on the left, where is the
usual *Caravanseera* for the *Caravan* of *Is-
pahan*. We came this way because the
Jus-Baschi had some Business. The *Rat-
tars* came to us to play their part, and
went first to *Malachy*, who to avoid pay-
ing feign'd himself a *Georgian*, and inqui-
ring after me, told them I was a *Frank*
that went to *Isfahan* to serve the King.
Hearing this and seeing us with the *Jus-
Baschi*, a Person in Authority, they took
our Words. The same Man sav'd me a
Toman, which is worth nineteen Crowns
of *Naples*; which was the sum a Servant
of the Kings Messenger demanded to pay
all the *Rattars* their due.

That same Day we set out two Hours
after Night, having first fitted the *Jus-
Baschi*'s Servants Pistols, for fear of Rob-
bers. We travell'd all Night through a
plain Country well cultivated, without
meeting any suspicious Person; but had
there been occasion we must have built a
small Fort to plant a Falconet, one of the
Kings Souldiers that was with us carry'd
instead of a Musket. For my part I
could scarce lift it from the Ground,
nor can I imagin how he could fire it.
After three Leagues riding we pass'd by
the *Caravanseera* of *Allah-buper*, and then
by that of *Talife*, and having travell'd
twenty eight Miles amidst Mountains in
ten Hours, came on *Sunday* 27th, to *Ha-
bar*. We should have pass'd through
the Village of *Xorandera*, but took this
way for our conveniency.

We found out this antient City, as *Ha-
bar* Cl- it were in a Labyrinth of large and cu- ty.
rious Gardens, enclos'd with Mud-
Walls and high Poplar-Trees. In the
Gardens there are good Apples, Pears,
Cherries, Plumbs, Grapes and other
sorts; as also the finest Roses in the
World, so that as the time of the Year
then was, a Man could not desire a
pleasanter Place to pass his time, than
amidst the cool and fragrant Solitudes
of

Gemelli.
 1694. of this City. We lay in a small *Caravansera* of a Muddy Structure, as is the fashion of that Country, with very cool Arch'd small Rooms. Near to it was a large *Mosch* much decay'd, particularly the Cloister, in which was a Fish Pond with good cool Water.

As for the City, tho' ruin'd, it is of a vast Compass, because of the Gardens, which make all about them look more like a Wood than a City.

We mounted again two Hours after Night, in the Company of ten of the Townsmen known to the *Jus-Baschi*. Having rode eighteen Miles in five Hours over barren Plains, we pass'd by the Village of *Parsein*, encompass'd with good Gardens, and furnish'd with a convenient *Caravansera*. Here we met a Great Man with a Retinue of fifty Men a Horse-back, and a *Ciapar* that conducted him.

All the Country about this Place being Fruitful, is well Peopled, but from thence forward Barren and Untill'd. We met here a *Caravan* of a thousand Horses going from *Ardevil* to *Tauris*. Holding on our way still over a plain Country; after riding twenty six Miles in six Hours, we set up before Noon in the small *Caravansera*, seated in the Village of *Xeare*; the other great one without being gone to Ruin. Here we wish'd for the cool Waters of *Zangan*, *Sultania*, and *Habar*, this Place affording none but what was very Bad and Brackish. This Village was once for the most part upon the Hill, but many Houses going to Ruin, as being Built with Mud, several Families are come down to live in the Plain. The Soil produces good Wine and Fruit.

Munday 28th at Sun set, we continu'd our Journey by Moon-light, and riding eighteen Miles in six Hours through a barren uncultivated Country, came to *Senava* where we rested till Day. This Village is on the Plain, and has good Houses, and Gardens, and a *Caravansera*. It is famous for good Nuts.

Tuesday 29th, continuing our Journey we saw a sort of wild Cattle feeding on the Plain, which are very good Meat, call'd by the *Persians*, *Geiran*, or *Garcellis*, which we have not in *Italy*. Their Hair is like a Buck, and they run like Dogs without leaping; at Night they feed on the Plains in Flocks, and in the Morning return to the Mountains. Having travell'd twelve Miles further in four Hours, we put into the Village of

Karasanch. Here we enjoy'd the cool Air under tall Maple Trees there are along the side of a Brook. No Village in *Persia* is without one, which is the cause of the continual greenness of the Fields, and of the plenty of pleasant Fruit Trees in their many delightful Gardens. Thence we went to Dine in certain Houses built on purpose for the Entertainment of Travellers.

In the Afternoon came the Country *Rattars*, and entring my Room very much admir'd my Buckskin-Breeches for riding. Some of them said they were *Dutch-cloth*, others that they were Leather. *Malachy* being ask'd the Question, to play upon them, said, I was a Wrestler, because the Wrestlers in *Persia* wear such. They answer'd, I was too lean for that sport, but *Malachy* knowing that their Wrestlers exercise themselves daily in lifting and carrying great weights, answer'd, I was grown lean with too much exercise. The Fellows said they would be glad to see it, and some of them would Wrestle with me. Come in the Morning, said *Malachy*, and you will see him do such things as will astonish you; but as for Wrestling he will not be guilty of Murdering any of you, for he would certainly throw you so that you would never rise. But he will go to *Ispahan* and do all the King shall order him. Thus we diverted the tedious Hours of the Day playing upon their Ignorance, and passing the time till the *Jus-Baschi's* Servants had dress'd a Lamb for Supper. At last the *Rattars* taking *Malachy* for a *Georgian*, and me for the King's Wrestler, went away without any Mony; for near *Ispahan* they are not so insolent, and dare not abuse a *Frank*; especially if they believe he is going to serve the King.

Mounting again in the Evening on *Tuesday* 29th we proceeded on our Journey, and riding near 20 Miles in 6 Hours came to the *Caravansera* of *Rehegiup*. This *Caravansera* is Large and well Built, with a lofty Arch at the Entrance, and four Towers on the Angles, tho' seated in a desert Plain, without any Village near it. Then travelling 12 Miles further in 4 Hours, we rested at such another *Caravansera* call'd *Koschkeria*. Then going on as many Miles more on *Wednesday* 30th, we came to the *Caravansera* and Village of *Dongh*, where the two aforementioned Roads to *Ispahan* meet. Three Miles from this is another good *Caravansera*, for those that come from *Ardevil* and *Casbin*. That of *Dongh* is singular



Gemelli. singular for structure; for whereas all the rest have Rooms about the Court with Arches before them to sleep in Summer, and Places behind for the Horses, this on the contrary is only a continued Row of open Arches, the Founder being resolv'd that Travellers should lie cool there all Weathers. The Structure is of good Brick, and all the Front is a large Inscription, containing as I was told, the Founder's Name, and peculiar Virtues. At a small distance is a good Fountain of cool Water.

Cheap
Travel-
ling in
Persia.

Before we proceed any further it is proper to observe, that it is very cheap Travelling through all the Dominions of Persia. For in the first place, whether a Man buys or hires a Horse the rate is very easie, and Provisions are sold for a small matter, by reason the Persians are sparing and Temperate; living a whole Day upon a little Cheese, or four Milk, in which they dip the Country Bread, which is as thin as a Wafer, insipid, and of the colour of a Pumice Stone. At Noon and Night they add to it a little Rice, or *Pilao*, sometimes boyl'd in fair Water. I was not able to hold out with that fare, and sometimes made Provision of Eggs and Lamb in the Villages we pass'd through; treating the *Jus-Baschi*, as I did my self also with good Wine and Brandy. Only Wood is dear there, and therefore instead of it they make use of Dung. About *Dongh* I took notice of the Folly of the Natives, who tho' they have excellent Grapes, do not know how to preserve the Wine, but put the Must under Ground into Cisterns daub'd with Lime.

Messen-
gers.

That very Morning we met an Express a-foot coming from *Ispahan*. He had six Horse-Bells hanging about his Girdle, just like the Mules of our Messengers. This they do both to be known, and to cheer them to walk. Those that serve Princes may have to the number of Twelve, and others according to their Quality.

The *Jus-Baschi*.

To return to our *Jus-Baschi*, his Behaviour was rather like a Courtier than Courteous; for if he Eat or Drank, he said it was for my sake; and I would have been glad he had been more sparing of his Favours. He also represented it as a great piece of Respect and Civility that he did not buy a Horse, knowing I was about him.

That same *Wednesday* about Evening we set forward, without fearing the change of Weather and Rain, as we did at *Tauris*. Having rode twelve

Miles in four Hours (I measured the way after this manner, because the Persian differ from the Turkish Leagues, and are not always alike) we pass'd by a *Caravansera*; and ten Miles further gone in four Hours, came to the City *Sava*, where we lodg'd in a *Caravansera* made of Mud.

Sava City.

The City *Sava* is seated in a fruitful Plain, with abundance of Villages about it; and looks handsome tho' many of the Houses are of Mud. The Walls which are four Miles in Compass, are fallen down in several Places, only wash'd away by the Rains; which has been the Fate of the Fort standing on the Top of a Hill. There would be good *Moschs* were they not ruin'd with Age. The principal Trade of this City consists in certain small long Furrs, which not only the Persians, but all the Christians of the East use for lining their Garments and Caps.

Leaving the City *Sava* on *Thursday* the 1st of *July*, five Miles from it, we saw on a high Ground another ruin'd Fort, in which was a good Cistern, because all about there, tho' they have good Brooks, they use Rain-water, and seven Miles beyond that we cross'd a River. We found the Country well cultivated, and abundance of Villages for above three Leagues; and after twenty Miles riding came to the *Caravansera* of *Giavar-Abad*; the largest and best in Persia, were not a great part of it fallen down, and out of use. Therefore they have Built two others near a good Spring, where almost all Travellers Lodge, and we stay'd after six Hours riding.

The *Jus-Baschi*, whose Name was *Melich-Sader-Beg*, had invited me and *Malachy* to a Village of his an Hours riding from *Sava*; and we not to Displease him, had promis'd to go Dine there one Day. Being to go that same Day, we understood he was gone to the Bath, and therefore we thought fit to proceed on our Journy, charging his Servants to make our Excuse for us; and the more because perhaps he would have stay'd long in his Village to gather Money, whereof he stood in need. This Village was given him by the King for his Life, besides fifty *Tomans* a Year, the common Pay of the *Jus-Baschi's*, which amounts to 950 Crowns of our Money, it being usual, over and above this to give all those that have deserv'd well, and are in Favour, a Village, which is worth to them 1000, or 2000 Crowns a Year. This the King particularly practises with

Pay of a
Jus-Baschi.

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with the *Georgians*, to remove them far from their Country, that they may not think of Revolting. But before he gives them any Employment, he causes them to be Circumcis'd either by fair means or by foul; knowing that tho' they be not themselves, yet their Children will be absolute *Mahometans*. The same Misfortune had hapned to our *Jus-Basci*, once *Cham* of the Province of *Gori* in *Georgia*, who blinded with Interest renounc'd Christianity; which his Mother and Sisters would not do, tho' carry'd for that purpose to *Ispahan*. Yet Discouring together several times he told me, he was not well pleas'd with the King; and that if he did not make good to him 200000 Crowns he had been a loser by his Imprisonment, he would certainly go to *Rome*, and become a Catholick; where getting Letters of Recommendation from the Pope, he would go into *Hungary* to serve the Emperor against the *Turks*, he well knowing what to do on the Black Sea, and the Country about it, and that his Nephew was already gone away to *Venice* with 10000 Crowns. Six *Georgian* Servants he had were no better *Mahometans* then he, having suffer'd themselves to be Circumcis'd only to follow their Master's Fortune, never regarding to Pray after the *Mahometan* fashion, and Cursing that false Prophet.

Night drawing on, we set forward through a barren Country like that we had travers'd before, and riding nine Miles in three Hours saw the Mountain of *Giavar-Abad*, of which they say *Ider-cait-mas*, that is, He that goes to it returns not; it being an old receiv'd Opinion among the *Persians*, that many who have attempted to go up it never came back; nor have they any probable Reason to give for it. No Man therefore dares go up for fear of Death; but I who am not Credulous of such Stories, would certainly have gone had it not been Night. Being but nine Miles from the City *Kom*, we held on our way thither, but the Moon setting, we stopp'd at a small distance from the City, expecting Day to go into it. Accordingly on *Friday* the 2d of *July* in the Morning, we found our selves in a fruitful Plain about two Miles in compass, and then crossing a small River on a Bridge of ten Arches newly Built, went to rest us all that Day in a *Caravansera*.

Kom City.

Kom is seated in 83 Degrees of Longitude, and 35 of Latitude, and is about ten Miles in Compass, but as well the

Walls as Houses have been in great measure beaten down by the Rains. Neither are the Squares beautiful, nor the *Bazars* and Shops rich, there being scarce any thing but Provisions. But there are several *Moschs* that might be call'd Beautiful, were they not let run to Ruin, the Natives not regarding to repair old Buildings out of the Vanity of Erecting new ones; and they told me that any Man who was well to Pass would think himself Miserable, should he Die without Founding some *Mosch*. The *Caravanseras* are convenient, and some of them have a Floor up Stairs. The fruitfulness of the Soil plentifully supplies the City with Grain, and all sorts of Fruit. Here is good *Turky* Leather of all Colours made, for the *Papuces* or Shooes.

That same Day, taking a Guide along with me, I went to see a *Mosch* held by the *Persians*, in equal Esteem with that of *Ardevil*, because in it are the Tombs of *Scia-Sofi*, and *Scia-Abas* the Second, Kings of *Persia*; as also that of *Sidi-Fatima*, the Daughter of *Iman-Hocen*, who was the Daughter of *Hali*, and of *Fatima Zuhra*, the Daughter of *Mahomet*. The great Gate of it opens to a long Square (with Shops on both sides, and a *Caravansera* next the River) over which is an Inscription in Gold Letters containing the Praises of *Scia-Abas* the Second. This leads into a longish Court, looking more like a Garden, because of the many Pine Trees there are along the way, and this way is also enclos'd with two low Walls, to secure the Roses, and other Flowers in the middle. On the right Hand, coming into this Court, there are small Rooms, where the Poor Eat their Allowance of Rice, Flesh and Bread daily given them for the Alms of the *Mosch*, according to the Intention of the Founder. There are other Rooms for Debtors who are not able to Pay, to retire to, who are also maintain'd by the *Mosch*; to the great Loss of the Creditors, who can expect no honest Composition from those that Live free Cost, without any Care. The first Court leads to the second, which is bigger and longish, like the other, with Trees about it, and Lodgings for the inferior Servants of the *Mosch*. At the end of this is a Gate into a third Square Court, about which are the Dwellings of the *Mullabs* or Priests, and in the middle a curious Fountain of Spring-Water. Ascending twelve Steps made of Brick, at the foot of a curious



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ous Front adorn'd with several Colours, is the Entrance into the fourth Court, in which there are also some Lodgings, and the Temple or *Mosch*, which is Beautiful to behold on the out-side. Of three Gates that appear in Front, that in the middle leads to the *Mosch*; that on the Right to the afore-mention'd Tombs; and that on the Left to a Hall, where the Alms are given out to the Poor; with this difference, that the Threshold of the middlemost is cover'd with Silver Plates. Being come to this Place, the *Mullahs*, who were within Reading in certain great Books, as soon as they saw me, stood up, and made Signs to me to come in, and one of them very civilly led me all about; contrary to what *Tavernier* says, That Christians are not permitted to go into those Places. I found the *Mosch* was an Octogon, with eight little Doors; in the midst was the Tomb of *Sidi-Fatima*, Grand-Daughter to *Mahomet*, made so Disproportionably big to the smallness of the *Mosch*, that there was scarce room enough to pass between it and the Wall.

Fatima's Tomb.

This Tomb is Square, cover'd with a rich Pall of Silk and Gold, and round Silver Bars about it, sixteen Spans long, placed like Lattices, with Nobs of the same Metal, where they Cross one another; and many Silver and Gold Lamps hanging about. From the Pavement of the *Mosch*, up to the top of the Columns, that support the Cupola, there

is curious Workmanship in the Tiles, of several Colours; and the Cupola and Arches are set off with *Arabick* Fancies drawn in Gold, and Azure. On the right Hand coming in is a large Room cover'd with good Carpets (as is the *Mosch*) where the Alms are given to the Poor, who stand in the room adjoining, to avoid Confusion.

Going up three Steps still on the right of the *Mosch*, and passing through two Doors, I came into a stately Hall cover'd with Carpets, and thence through another Door to the Tomb of *Scia-Sofi*. It is like an Altar four Spans above the Ground, and cover'd with Cloth of Gold. The Room is Arch'd with four Doors on the sides, one of which is shut, and answers to the Tomb of *Sidi-Fatima*; another leads to a little Cloister, and the fourth to the Tomb of *Scia-Abas*. This Tomb is cover'd with a red Silk; the Place is round, with small Niches in the Wall for Ornament, and good Carpets on the Ground (as in the other) and about it great Books for the *Mullahs* to Read. The Walls are all garnish'd with Gold and Blew, and Tiles of several Colours handsomely plac'd after the Fashion of the Country. Returning thence I saw another good *Mosch* near this.

That of
Scia-Abas.

The *Rattars* of *Kom* are not so Rude as in other Parts, for they took nothing of me. In this City there is a Mint, but they did not Coin when I was there.

C H A P. IV.

The Author continues his Journey to Ispahan.

WE departed the City with the sound of Drums and Trumpets that were heard from the *Meidan*, or Market, or Square, that same Day being the 2d of *July*, about Sun-setting to continue our Journey. After riding twelve Miles in four Hours, we came to the large Village of *Kassum-Abad*, and rest in one of the five *Caravansera's* there are in that Place.

Saturday 3d, we set out with the Day on a Sandy Way, and very Barren, which lasted six Hours, and fifteen Miles to the *Caravansera* of *Abseirim*, that is, fresh Water; because there is a Cistern for the use of all the *Caravansera's*, there being never a drop of Water for five Leagues about; so that by the way we

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found a Dog dying for Thirst, occasion'd by a hot Wind that Blows there, and almost takes away ones Breath.

We set out again towards Evening that same Day, and at five Miles distance pass'd by the little Village of *Sinsin*, and eight further by that of *Nassar Abad*, quite destroy'd; but shewing the Ruins of good Buildings, where we rested a while in the open Air, till *Sunday* 4th, at break of Day: When departing thence, we came two Hours before Night to the City *Cascian*, after riding twenty Miles in eight Hours. The Soil for only three Miles about the City was fit for Tillage.

The City *Cascian* is Govern'd by a *Cascian* *Cham*, like *Kom*, and is but little or City.

R

nothing