

and wild goat had just been arranged for the benefit of Colonel the Hon. R. Talbot, my fellow-traveller as far as Enzeli, as he had been in command of the Shah's escort of cavalry during His Majesty's visit to England in 1874. He was also accorded an audience, and was presented by His Majesty with a gold coin after the usual custom. But it seems that the Persians in charge of these preserves were not willing to disturb the ground, and the whole affair would have been a promenade or mere pretence had it not been for the expostulations of Mr. Churchill, the British Consul; and in the end, though no wild goats were killed, yet a large number were seen.

Travel, except near the city, must be done on horseback. In Teheran, since 1850, the use of carriages has been introduced, and now no Persian nobleman's establishment is complete without one. But there is another thing without which no Persian nobleman's establishment is complete, and that is a pig. Mohammed, copying from the Jewish religion, made the pig an unclean animal. But yet a Swiss merchant makes quite a handsome income selling pigs to the Persians, which are kept in the stables as scapegoats; the diseases which the horses might have had are supposed to pass away into the pigs. Then he buys them back and makes bacon of them for the foreigners.

There is a carriageable road for five miles south, to the mosque of Shah Abdul Azim, where the debtors