

Allah and America.

In Persia, on a morning after the vermin had been particularly vigorous, I said something caustic about getting back to God's country. An Armenian who had reposed in utter comfort in the same caravansary heard it and smiled. Being an Armenian, he hated the Persians, probably. Incidentally the Persian reciprocates.

Well, this Armenian, rubbing his hands and with his head skewed over on one side, said: "The Persians have a legend for everything. They have a legend for what you said just now. It is this:

"Allah—that is God—once said to his angel, 'I will see this world which I made.'"

"And so Allah and the angel descended invisible in a cloud to the earth, and the first place at which they arrived was France that is, in Ferengistan. And there they saw the railroads, and the tramways, and the theaters, and the great picture galleries. And Allah looked in disappointment and said: 'Alas, no! This is not the world which I made. I made none of these things.'"

"So they journeyed to Inglesistan—that is, England—and there were mighty ships in the harbors and huge mills which make all sorts of things and food in plenty. And again Allah said: 'Alas, no! This is not the world which I made.' And everywhere they traveled in the cloud Allah looked upon the land and said, 'No; this is not it.'"

"At last, in despair, the angel led the way to Persia, and Allah sat himself down upon a very high mountain, and, looking far on every side, he saw neither railroads nor tramways nor theaters nor picture galleries nor ships nor mills nor schoolhouses nor plenty to eat."

"And Allah, said: 'Yes, at last. This is the world which I made. Not a thing is changed. The people whom I put there have done nothing.'"

"Why didn't he come to America?" I asked.

"Sir," answered the Armenian "in Persia they had not even heard of America."—Ex.

The Fate of the Fly.

At one of the English-German schools in the city a teacher recently announced to a class of very young girls that they could have 20 minutes to write a composition on any subject of

their own selection. A bright girl, whose head is adorned with a liberal supply of beautiful auburn hair, handed in the following:

"Flies from Flyland.—Mrs. Fly had a very great deal of trouble with her children. They worried the old lady so much she did not know what to do. One little fly—Worst One by name—never did obey his mother. Now, of course, there never yet was a case of disobedience which was not punished in some manner. If you do wrong and nobody is around to punish you, you usually knock against something or fall down and hurt yourself."

"We will see now what little Worst One did and how he was punished. One day he and his brothers had a chat, and in it they spoke of the jam that the cook left standing on the kitchen table, and they all determined to get

just the tiniest bit of it, and they went. Now, the mother knew of this, and she went with them, and of course she did not scold. Oh, no! 'Why, every fly eats jam, but you must not go inside the jam jar, as no one knows what will happen to you if you do. Just rest on the top,' the mother said."

"The others were all afraid and did not go in, but Little Worst One, he did not care; he was going in, and in he went in spite of what his mother said. And what do you think happened to him? Never before in the history of flies did such a strange thing happen. You think he died and remained there, don't you? You are mistaken. They did get him out, but he had a terrible punishment, and he had to carry it with him ever afterward. His hair had turned red with fright. I believe after that he obeyed his mother."

The teacher gave this composition "100."—Baltimore Sun.

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