

THE FAMINE IN PERSIA.

The efforts lately made in the city by a committee of benevolent persons acquainted with the condition of Persia to raise funds in order to give some relief to the starving people of that country have had a certain degree of success. The sum collected to the end of last week was above £7,000, of which

£3,300 had been sent, through the Foreign Office, to Mr. Alison, the British Minister at Teheran, who divided it equally between Teheran, Ispahan, and Bushire. The remainder of the money already subscribed was ordered to be sent, and an appeal is now made to the public charity of England for additional supplies. The Consul-General for Persia, Mr. T. K. Lynch, acts with Mr. Edwin Dawes as honorary secretaries

of the committee, at 55 Parliament Street, in the place of Major Bateman Champain, R.E., who has to go abroad on military duty.

Letters have been received from the Rev. Robert Bruce, a missionary of the Church Missionary Society at Ispahan, and from Colonel Pelly, the British political resident at Bushire, who gave terrible accounts of the sufferings of the people.



THE FAMINE IN PERSIA: STARVING PEOPLE AT SHIRAZ.

At Ispahan, says Mr. Bruce, dead bodies lie unburied in the houses and on the roads for want of strength to inter them. Bread was at three times its usual price, and there was no prospect of much improvement before next June. At Bushire the house of Colonel Pelly was besieged by a mob of famished wretches, trampling each other to death in their fierce hunger. In some districts, it was reckoned, a third of the Mohammedan population had died, and two-thirds of the cattle and beasts of burden. Colonel Pelly further wrote from

Bushire that the Persian governor of that town had recently travelled from the entrance of the gulf to Shiraz, and thence to Bushire. At his custom-house he did not collect two rupees, where he used to collect ten. He estimated that not more than one in twelve of the baggage animals had survived the drought along the Yezed line. Yezed itself was ruined for the present, and Kazeeron, which recently contained 11,000 or 12,000 inhabitants, had dwindled to a total of some 600 to 700 poor people.

The Hungarian traveller, Mr. Arminius Vambéry, explains the cause of this dreadful famine. "Agriculture in Persia," he says, "is in a very primitive state; the want of water is so great that the fields have to be irrigated by subterranean canals, which extend across the country for miles, and the peasant seldom cultivates more than what is required for his household, as the people live on nothing but vegetables for four months in the year. There is, consequently, never any considerable superfluity of corn, and the results of a bad har-