

at a gallop, being in the saddle from sunrise to sunset, except once when I continued until past midnight as it was raining hard, and I was afraid least some of the streams I had to ford should become impassable before morning.

It would be impossible to give a full and connected account of the journey without introducing the names of the posting-stations, the distances, and other details. I shall therefore merely enumerate briefly the chief incidents characteristic of Persian travel. There are no roads in Persia excepting round Teheran. The path after leaving Tabreez is everywhere strewn with stones, which it is everybody's, and consequently nobody's, business to remove, and so they have lain there since the days of Cyrus. I also passed a chain of deep wells connected by passages, of which the mouths of some were situated in the track of caravans and quite unprotected, though night-travel is an ordinary thing, and the bones of animals which had fallen into these death-traps could be seen deep down below, washed by a stream which supplies Tabreez.

A society for preventing cruelty to animals (like the one in the island of Crete, which is so successful amidst difficulties) would find a colossal work to be done in Persia. The camels seemed to have a happier time of it than the mules and donkeys.

On more than one occasion before sunrise I met a caravan of over five hundred camels marching in strings of twenty, laden with goods for Tabreez and Trebizond. The first and last camels of each string