

there was irrigation there arose groves of vivid green poplars.

I found Erivan to be a large town, the houses built in European style, with carriages plying for hire, and inns of very moderate pretensions.

Next morning we resumed our journey towards the Persian frontier, which we reached four days later after travelling as fast as possible, and on two occasions for several hours after the sun had set. Delicious grapes were everywhere to be had, as well as eggs, tea, bread, and fowls.

On the other hand, the road was perfectly atrocious, though in places the Russians had already commenced work upon it. I am not exaggerating when I affirm that the dust was over a foot in depth in places. It was also generally more or less covered with stones and boulders of all sizes, which it is nobody's business to remove. On several occasions we experienced delay owing to want of horses, more especially at the large village of Nakhechevan, where we were detained six hours; and, finally, finding that horses were not forthcoming by sunset, we wrote in the post-book a long complaint in Russian, or rather an Armenian gentleman, on his way to Tabreez, who had joined us, did so, following the example of several previous travellers.

On the morning of the eighth day we crossed the river Araxes in a kind of large punt, and I set foot, for the first time, in Persia.

Our passports had first to be stamped, for which