

leading to the mosque, were promptly arrested, for His Majesty was thoroughly alarmed. They were then conveyed to the citadel and ordered to be summarily executed. After the sentence had been carried out upon eight of the prisoners the Prime Minister or some other official got wind of these proceedings and came flying down in time to stop any more of such vindictive measures.

In the Persian capital the bazaars, the motley crowds, and the Shah's treasury and palaces are the only sights. The latter have exquisite gardens. The water supply is abundant, and inside some of the rooms fountains and running streams are found. Some of the Persian horses, particularly those of the Imperial stud, are perfectly lovely animals. The Persians are first-rate horsemen, but there are no national horse races. The only ones His Majesty delights in are those of rose-leaves thrown down one of the water-courses in his palaces. The Shah takes queer fancies. Some time ago the object was a white cat. It had a special horse of its own, with a cage, of which the wires were padded with velvet for fear lest any of its fur should be injured. Soon it got lost; and "then the trouble began." All the good-looking cats in Persia were brought, but none of them was the right one.

Now the object of His Majesty's regard is the son of one of his officers; a child whom he has made Field Marshal over the heads of all his veterans.

The climate is very peculiar. In April the spring commences, the pleasantest part of the year, and lasts