

are marshes (which, except in the south, is seldom) snipe and duck are to be found. A few bears are to be shot in the mountains round Lake Urmia, and what are called ibex on the highest peaks. Gazelles and lions are confined to the south; the latter are not numerous, notwithstanding Colonel St. John's adventure, and the fact that a lion figures on the Persian standard. The sport round Teheran and on the shores of the Caspian is of a different kind.

In order to reach Teheran, the capital, I now had to ride ninety-two farasahks, or three hundred and sixty-eight miles, and then to drive one hundred miles in rough springless carts, changing horses at the *chapar khanehs* at each fifteen to twenty-five miles. At the first station, named Saidabad, they gave me the best horses of any I used, either before or after, during the entire journey; their paces were so lively that in a short time my saddle-bags parted into two, and after stopping to repair them we reached the next station-house just before dusk, where I resolved to pass the night.

This building was like most of the other *chapar khanehs*, or post-stations. Excepting the Shah's palaces in Teheran and a few other buildings, mosques and baths, houses in Persia are constructed entirely and solely of mud, which becomes quite hard; but the roofs, which are flat, are supported by light beams. In this post-station, as in many others, the small room for travellers was built upon the roof, several panes of glass were missing, the door refused to remain entirely