

there are many kinds of them. He showed me different cultures. But he has lost his faith in the creature and thinks him a humbug, and not at all the cause—at least not the sole cause of cholera. He said the prisoners in the House of Correction understand how to produce in themselves a diarrhoea—not cholera—though the orthodox comma bacillus was found in the discharges. Neither by threats nor rewards had he succeeded in getting at the secret of producing artificial cholera.

I saw an excellent smoke-self-consuming garbage incinerator in operation, which I could conscientiously recommend for San Francisco.

In Persia we touched at three ports, Bandar Abbas (near the Isle of Hormuz), Linjah and Bushir. It is from Bushir one gets the best attar of roses, and it is said that the road from Shiraz to Bushir is impregnated with the odour, as the perfume leaks through the skins in which it is brought on camels to the coast. But other odours than that of roses greet one's nose on landing.

The Garden of Eden (where the Euphrates and Tigris unite) is a veritable Paradise. Other interesting points on the river are Ezra's tomb, and the ruins of Ctesiphon, where one sees the largest arch in the world. On the opposite bank are mounds covering Seleucia.

Bagdad has about 200,000 inhabitants (5,000 Christians, 50,000 Jews and the rest Mahomedans). There is neither a saloon, gambling house, or brothel in the city, though there are said to be some clandestine prostitutes. Murders are rare; suicides unknown. The people are dirty, lazy, good-natured, independent, and not at all servile like the inhabitants of Bengal and Japan. They do not always tell the truth; in fact, the lower classes never do if they can help it. The higher classes—at least some of these I know—are models of probity and goodness. The people

here are not dark, and, though dark eyes and hair prevail, extremely blonde types, light blue eyes and yellow or even red hair, are common. The women are stately and often beautiful. The dress of the native Christians (both men and women) is becoming, but European civilization has introduced high-heeled boots and corsets, and the izar may be doomed. I shall be sorry to see it go.

This is a rich country, and all are anxious to get a slice of Turkey when the carving takes place. I should myself like to get a few corner lots in Babylon.

I should have mentioned that my house here is a fortress with burglar-proof gates and iron-barred windows.

Street cars, carriages, telephones, gas, electric lights, etc., are unknown here. At night the streets are deserted except during the Ramadan.

This region is great for creeping things of all kinds, from lizards to lice. The steamer I came up the Persian Gulf in was so full of cockroaches that one could leave nothing loose in the cabin. They devoured the ship surgeon's boots and one of my Arabic dictionaries, and came near eating my spectacles—at least they made a meal of the case. An entomologist's paradise that.

No other consul but myself ever goes out without an armed body-guard (from three to twelve), but I have been defying all rules and traditions, except when making official visits. Let Bagdad's poor be my guard, if I need one, though, judging from the way physicians were attacked by mobs in Spain and Russia during recent cholera epidemics, I do not know to what extent I ought to trust a lot of half-savage fanatics.

Now, farewell for the present. Next time I come to California I may possibly have something of interest to communicate.

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