

and evil-doers of the capital fly for refuge from the law, and most of the inhabitants, including the Shah, make a weekly pilgrimage thither. The dome of this mosque is covered with gold. A railway has been built to this place from Teheran, five miles in length, the money having been partly provided, I believe, by a Belgian company. A week before I arrived in Teheran a boy accidentally fell out of a carriage and was run over, and the stupid and fanatical population thinking the European engine-driver had done it on purpose, set upon him with sticks and stones. He defended himself and managed to reach the ticket office of one of the stations, and threw all the money he had in his pockets to the crowd, as a sop to Cerberus. Finally he was obliged to draw his revolver, and killed two Persians with it. When I left, he was lying under the care of some Roman Catholic sisters of mercy, in a precarious condition. The mob subsequently wrecked and burnt the station and carriages, so I was unable to travel to the Mosque of Shah Abdul Azim on the only line of railway in all Persia. The Shah had sixty of them bastinadoed on the soles of the feet. Not so very long ago, before the construction of the railway, the Shah was driving out to this place. A general prevented some soldiers handing to His Majesty a petition for their pay. Thus thwarted of their rights they threw some stones intended for this officer, who told His Majesty that the missiles were aimed at *him*. Whereat all soldiers within sight, and all found upon the road