

able soap, in a manner which I never beheld elsewhere; from which one emerges as Aphrodite did from the sea-foam at Paphos on the west coast of Cyprus.

English goods still hold the market, it is satisfactory to know, and I saw many courtyards or caravanserais in Tabreez piled high with English bales brought from Trebizond on the backs of camels, horses, mules or donkeys, notwithstanding the proximity of Russia, the difficulties she has laid in the way of English commerce with Persia, and the inland situation of Tabreez, though not long ago Russia allowed English goods to pass free of duty. By means of this route from Trebizond our goods now never enter Russian territory. Many Persians who owed them thousands of pounds were pointed out to me by the Stevens, which they were never likely to see. Yet their business is lucrative in the long run. The Blue Mosque, which is a beautiful ruin with remains of exquisite blue enamelled tiles, and the citadel, are the only sights to be visited in Tabreez.

Near Tabreez rises a mountain of a golden colour, owing to the earth of which it is made, and a thin growth on it of a kind of grass. Immediately behind it rises a higher one of a rose-red colour, forming a remarkable contrast to the hill in front. In Persia a landscape of this character is frequently observed, and without a single tree in sight.

Of small game, wild pigeons and partridges are the most numerous round Tabreez; wherever there