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SEAL OF ARTAXERXES.

THE EXCAVATIONS AT SUSA.

BY MADAME JANE DIEULAFOY.

IN the beginning of the year 1881 the Dieulafoy household left France. Previous studies and the counsels of a great architect and an eminent *savant*, Viollet-le-Duc, had induced the head of the household to go to seek in Persia the link which connects Oriental art with that Gothic art which sprang into existence so suddenly in the Middle Ages. Arabian architecture in Spain, in Morocco, in Algeria, and in Egypt had brought a contingent of information, but it was necessary to go back further to the prime sources of that architecture.

When once we had crossed the Caucasus there were presented in succession to our charmed eyes the elegant manifestations of Persian art under the monarchs of Giuzne; the monuments of the Seljuks and Moguls; the enamelled edifices built at Ispahan by the great Sofi; the ruins of ancient Persepolis due to an art which borrows from Egypt and Ionia its principal elements, but at the same time harmonizes them with incomparable skill;* the mountains of ruins which were once Babylon; the arch of Ctesiphon, that co-

lossal creation of the Sassanides, the prototype of the mosque of Hassan at Cairo. So far our fatigues were only relative, and the difficulties surmounted without too great effort. But this was no longer the case when we had to make our way to Susiana, where, as we were told, there were very important Sassanide monuments—useful works, if ever there were any, such as bridges, dams, canals, and aqueducts. However, we arrived at our journey's end: more than a year had elapsed since our departure from France.*

Susa, the ancient capital of Elam, is situated in an immense plain which stretches from the mountains of Bakhtyaris to the Persian Gulf. Two important rivers, the Karoun, into which falls the Ab-Dizfoul, and the Kerkha, water a soil worthy to rival in fertility the alluvion of Chaldaea, but more desolate and more deserted even than old Babylonia. With the exception of Chouster and Dizfoul, towns of Sassanide origin, situated the one at three stages, the other at a day's ride, from ancient Susa, and built with its ruins, there is not a single habitation to enliven the

* See *L'Art antique de la Perse*, by Marcel Dieulafoy, 5 vols., gr. 4to. Paris: Morel.

* See *Persia, Chaldaea, Susiana*, by Madame J. Dieulafoy. Paris: Hachette.



M. MARCEL AND MADAME JANE DIEULAFOY.

landscape. Some nomad Persians and Arabs camp in this vast solitude, and live wild and savage on the milk of their herds, or on the fruits of plundering raids made sometimes in Turkey and sometimes in Persia.

Susa, without going back so far as the legendary Memnon, was still a powerful town, whose influence for a long time out-

NOTE.—In the month of October, 1886, the French Minister of Public Instruction, in presence of the principal members of the administration of the Louvre Museum and of the Fine Arts Department, conferred upon Madame Jane Dieulafoy the cross of the Order of the Legion of Honor—a distinction which has very rarely been accorded to a woman. In a summary note, the *Journal Officiel*, in registering the nomination, added the following mention: "Susiana Mission, 1881-1886: Discoveries and archaeological work." Madame Dieulafoy has indeed largely contributed to the success of the important archaeological mission which the French government intrusted to M. Marcel Dieulafoy, her husband, and which began in 1881 with a journey through Persia, Chaldæa, and Susiana, the narrative of which was published a few months ago in a volume from the pen of this courageous and indefatigable lady traveller. The mission continued its work in 1884-5 and 1885-6 by excavating the tumuli of Susa, and bringing to light a series of specimens of ancient art, which are now being arranged in the Louvre Museum, and which will probably be visible to the public toward the end of the present year. The above article, written by Mme. Dieulafoy specially for *Harper's Magazine*, is the first authentic and complete account yet published of these wonderful discoveries.—TH. C.

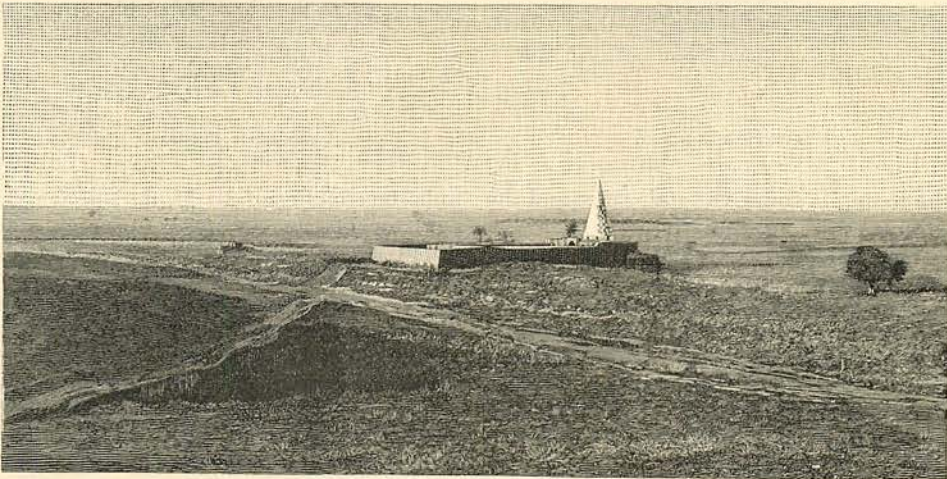
weighed that of Babylon. Indeed, it was not until the second millenary before our era that Susa lost its hegemony over the alluvial plains between the Karoun and the Euphrates. Darius, son of Hystaspes, made it once more the capital of Asia, when, in 521 B.C., he drove from the throne of Persia the audacious Magian who had massacred the brother of Cambyses. The Great King built a palace at Susa, the ancient authors tell us, and henceforward the royal city became the radiant focus around which were gathered artists from Ionia and from Greece, and all those whose knowledge recommended them to the dispenser of the riches of the world. Darius disappears; Artaxerxes succeeds him; and the unworthy heir of

their glory, the last of the Achæmenidæ, flies before Alexander, who pillages the treasure of the citadel, and leaves in it in exchange a Macedonian garrison. Then come the Sassanides, who abandon Susa for a town of their own creation, Chouster, and with the stones torn from the palace of their predecessors build bridges and dikes, and finally leave the old capital to waste away and die. In the eighth century the city and its palaces began to disappear under layers of detritus, which become thicker every year, and at the present day all that remains is an artificial mountain, valleys formed by the falling in of the banks of the canals, and by way of inhabitants wild cats and boars encamped in the deep crevices which rend from top to bottom the sides of the tumuli.

The artificial elevation which supported in former times the palaces of Susa—an elevation which can be seen from a very great distance—has the form of a hill with a horizontal crest, dominated at the extreme right by a higher platform. The plan of the *ensemble* of the tumuli is shaped like an elongated lozenge and divided into three parts, separated from each other by a deep valley. Let us climb the loftiest tumulus. A goat path leads us to the top, and from the terrace crowning the elevation the view extends first to a

fine chain of snowy mountains bounding a desert plain dotted here and there by two or three *kouars* (a sort of shrub) and a few half-ruined Mussulman sanctuaries; to the right is a rectangular plateau, five furlongs in length, the southern extremity of which seems almost as high as our observatory; at our feet is a square tumulus of about forty acres covered with brush; to the left a watercourse winding sinuously along the extreme spurs of the elevation, and bathing with its greenish waters a celebrated sanctuary; behind us

epigraph informs us, came from a palace built by Artaxerxes Mnemon on the site of the royal dwelling of his ancestor Darius, a dwelling which was burnt down a few years after its construction. They owe to a singular chance the good fortune of once more seeing the light of day. In 1852 the English government undertook to settle the southern frontier of Turkey and of Persia. For this purpose some geographers and some diplomatists penetrated to Susiana, where their official inviolability guaranteed them relative secu-



TOMB OF DANIEL.

stretches a marsh. The watercourse is called the Chaour; the sanctuary is no other than the tomb of Daniel. According to tradition, this monument, of no great pretensions, contains the last remains of the Peighambar (*i. e.*, prophet), whose body, 130 feet long and 30 feet broad across the shoulders, is the most precious relic, the palladium, of the country. Our observatory, like the neighboring elevations, is destitute of apparent ruins. To the northwest, however, we see some white stones peeping through the brush. On approaching we find ourselves, not without some surprise, face to face with the head of a gigantic animal lying at the foot of the base of a column. A cuneiform inscription in three languages is engraved on the flat part of the base. Here and there are scattered a few shapeless fragments, and that is all.

These venerable relics, as the trilingual

rity. The people talked to them about Susa, the name of which has remained popular in Arabistan, and finally Colonel Williams, and Sir Kennett Loftus, the explorer of the tumuli of Warka, could not resist the temptation to make excavations around the fragments of fluted columns which were to be found here and there on the surface. They hired three hundred Arabs, had a trench dug at the point where the débris of stones were most considerable, and soon brought to light four bases of columns with inscriptions, the head which lay near one of the columns, sufficient elements to reconstitute the bicephalous capitals which surmounted the columns, the bases of these supports, and some substructions of a room with a roof resting on pillars, and surrounded on three sides by porticoes. Further excavations made to the north of the edifice proved unfruitful: the walls of



LIEUTENANT BABIN.



PROFESSOR HOUSSAY.

the room, its doors, the stairways, and the avenues were not found.

The stone bulls which crowned the capitals were too heavy to be removed, and some enamelled materials alone were sent to London, together with a few terra-cotta statuettes and some cuneiform inscriptions engraved on clay. Sir Kennett Loftus, pressed by the fanatics of Dizfoul, who saw with horror the impure hands of Christians disturbing the soil consecrated to the Prophet, and for thousands of years past used as burying-ground, was obliged to abandon the country after having lost one of his men, who was killed in a popular uprising.

We arrived at Susa for the first time in the midst of one of those deluges of rain which are the peculiar privilege of hot countries. At first sight my husband, forcibly struck by the aspect of the tumuli, remained convinced that the trenches dug by Sir Kennett Loftus were not deep enough, and that it would have been preferable to have made the excavations to the south rather than to the north of the hypostyle room—purely platonic remarks, for, sick, worn out by fever, and by the 3700 miles that we had travelled on horseback before reaching the palace of Artaxerxes, we had also come to the end of our financial resources. We returned to France without having so much as scratched the surface of the soil of the palaces.

A year passed. The *souvenir* of Susa haunted my husband in his sleep. He

unbosomed himself to M. de Ronchaud, Director of the National Museums, and found in that high functionary the most enlightened confidant and the surest guide. Unfortunately the funds of the museums were not in harmony with the good-will of their director. Monsieur de Ronchaud had at his disposal nothing but a balance remaining over from the Universal Exhibition of 1878, 31,000 francs, a very small sum, considering that the country of our dreams was away at the end of the Persian Gulf, and that access to that distant country was most difficult, and consequently most expensive. However, each of the Ministries came to our assistance: the Ministry of Public Instruction added 10,000 francs to our budget; the War Department lent us arms, saddles, and tents; the Navy promised to transport our whole mission gratis as far as Aden; and finally two young collaborators, M. Babin, Lieutenant of Engineers, and Professor Houssay, were placed under the orders of my husband.

These preliminary questions settled, we asked the Shah to grant us the authorization to excavate the tumuli of Susa. A few months passed, and thanks to the obliging intervention of Dr. Tholozan, the physician and friend of the King, all difficulties were at length removed. The French government was authorized to send an archæological mission into Arabistan under the following reserves: the tomb of Daniel should not be touched; all gold and silver objects found should be

come the exclusive property of his Majesty; and all the other objects discovered should be divided between our museums and Persia.

This news reached France at the end of November, 1884. A few days later we embarked on board the transport-ship *Le Tonkin*, which carried our mission to Aden. We left without very marked regret the volcanic deck of this vessel, loaded with gunpowder, dynamite, and fulmicoton, destined for the use of the squadron commanded by Admiral Courbet. One night the passengers were awakened by the fire-alarm call, and for a few moments they had time to think of a better world. What a fine effect the Susiana mission would have produced flying sky-high in search of undiscovered stars!

At Aden we passed eight days waiting for the English boat which runs to Kurrachee, for we had to go to India in order to get the means of reaching the coasts of Persia.

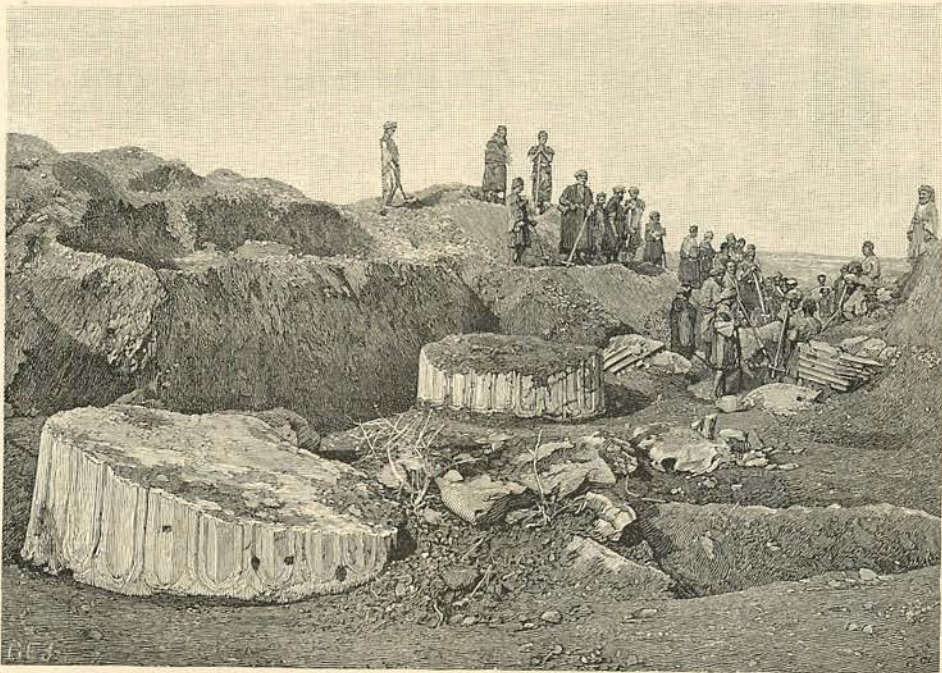
En route for Kurrachee I ask the captain what is the nature of our cargo. The ample and deep hold of the steamer is full of lucifer-matches!

The voyage lasted a week. I was de-

lighted at the thought of presenting my respects to the famous crocodiles of Kurrachee, when, on entering the port, we were signalled by a ship just leaving for the Persian Gulf. The baggage of the mission was immediately transferred on board the *Assyria*, and without having even set foot on Indian soil we continued our course.

At the end of February the mission had reached the mouth of the Karoun, a large river which flows into the Shat-el-Arab, ascended the first of these watercourses as far as a weir built under the dynasty of the Sassanides, hired a caravan, and gained Chouster, the nominal capital of Persian Arabistan, which I shall henceforward designate by its old name of Susiana.

Chouster is the official rather than the real residence of the Hakem or Governor of the province. An uncle of the King, whose acquaintance we had made during our first journey, had died, and his successor was a person of intelligence, but of low extraction, whose appointment had irritated the religious nobility of the country, who were thus placed at the mercy of a "nobody." The Hakem was not at



BASES OF COLUMNS OF THE PALACE OF ARTAXERXES.

Chouster, but he was expected to arrive there shortly, we were told. We waited for him in vain five days, and then we started out to go to meet him. As soon as he heard of our arrival he had given orders to raise his camp, pitched not far from the tumuli. The worthy man avoided the neighborhood of the mission as he would have avoided the pest. Nevertheless we had to catch him in order to obtain from him the authorization to engage workmen, and in order to remit to his couriers our letters and despatches.

We met the *ordou*, that is to say, the civil and military suite which accompanies the governor of a province, at a few hours' distance from Dizfoul. The enormous troop of soldiers and servitors, the tents and the cannons, were defiling slow-

ly, and spreading without order over a space of a quarter of a mile wide and nearly four miles long. At last I saw Mozaffer-el-Molk, the sovereign master of the province. He was accompanied by Dr. Moustapha, a pupil of Dr. Tholozan, who in the school of this learned practitioner had acquired a very fair knowledge of French, and perhaps too of medicine. We saluted his Excellency, and the mission continued its route toward Dizfoul, while my husband turned back and went to spend the day with Mozaffer-el-Molk in a camp where breakfast was prepared.

I saw Dizfoul again with joy: I was so near Susa, and I was in such a hurry to set the picks to work! Toward evening Marcel rejoined us. All the necessary authorizations had been given him; he returned to the mission enchanted and overwhelmed with kind words.

The next day the mission handed a letter of recommendation received from high authority to the Sheik Taër, an aged and saintly mollah, who was all-powerful in the province, while I paid a visit to the two wives of the general in command of the troops, two beautiful Teheran ladies who were bored to death in this town so far from the capital. Two days afterward we started for Susa without troubling our heads about an official spy, placed at my husband's disposal by Mozaffer-el-Molk, under pretext of doing us honor, and who in our absence emptied in our name the grocery stores of the bazar, and paid with the money intended for these purchases the debts which, for want of an *ordou*, he had been dragging in his train for years.

The weather was dark and rainy; dazzling lightning was rending the starless night when I caught sight of the tumuli in the bluish glimmer of the flashes. It was too late to plant our tents the night of our arrival; we were obliged to beg asylum in the tomb of Daniel; and we considered ourselves very fortunate to be able to encamp under one of the arcades running around the entrance court.

At daybreak this honor seemed to us to be dangerous, Christians not being safe in the vicinity of the patron of lion-tamers; and so our first care, as soon as the sun had dried the herbage which covered the tumuli, was to plant our tents not far from the bases of columns



PERSIAN WORKMAN.



FAMILY OF DEPUTY-GOVERNOR OF DIZFOUL, PERSIA.

discovered formerly by Colonel Williams. At three o'clock in the afternoon we transported our baggage to the new encampment, and to their great joy the four exiles dined for the first time in their own quarters, or rather in the quarters of the Koundour Nakhounta and of the Dariuses. It was seventy-two days since they had left France.

Before setting to work it was found advisable to examine with the greatest attention the excavations begun a little at hap-hazard by Loftus, and to determine the position of the trenches which we were to dig. My husband, at the time of our first journey, had made an exhaustive study of Persepolitan architecture, and his knowledge was of no small assistance in guiding us on the northern plateau, which I shall call the Achæmenidæan tumulus, because the palace of Artaxerxes was sit-

uated at this point. The position of the inscriptions engraved on the bases of the column of the Apadâna (throne-room) led him to conclude that we ought to look for the entrance of the royal dwelling not to the north but to the south. A first trench was therefore traced about two hundred feet in front of the southern portico; it was slanted slightly along the façade of the palace; the other trenches were cut on the eastern platform, which I shall indicate by the name of Elamite. To mark out the trenches was not a great affair; the difficulty was to find workmen to dig them. During these first few days we received two visits. One of them, to which we were far from attaching all the importance it deserved, was that of a venerable priest, who came to the tomb the day after we had settled our camp. Accompanied by an escort of thirty persons, he mounted to

our tents, refused to come in and rest, and asked why the mission had abandoned the "Gabee" (the Persian word for tomb), and encamped on muddy and damp ground. "Our work," replied my husband, "requires us to live on the spot." The second visit was that of an Arab chief, Sheik Ali, who was camping with his tribe in the environs of Susa. He brought a fine lamb in testimony of his desire to live on good terms with the new-comers. His proceeding was too polite for us to neglect to interest Sheik Ali in our affairs. Marcel asked him if amongst the nomads of his tribe there were not some who would dig and shovel dirt for a consideration. He rubbed his hands one against the other, and murmured with contempt, "Arab, la, la" (Arab, no, no). This meant to say, in a brief form, "The Arabs do not work; apply to the Persians."

The gloaming of the third day saw the arrival of Mirza Abdoul Khahim. This spy related that he had delayed his departure from Dizfoul in order to calm the emotion caused in the town by the news of our establishment on the domain of Daniel. Mirza Abdoul Khahim, according to his own statement, had dissipated all the storms.

Meanwhile an old fellow, wearing the blue turban of the Dizfoulis, with a countenance more intelligent than it was frank, a mason by trade, a usurer when he had the chance, appeared in the camp. He had heard in the bazar that the Faranghis recently arrived at Susa could dive better than amphibious animals, and that the smallest of them could live for three days at the bottom of the Chaour, where he would swim about without ever breathing, and feed on live carp. "This is truly strange," he had said to a colleague: "what say you? Let us go and enjoy this gratuitous spectacle." And thereupon the two, mounted on asses, had taken the direction of Daniel's tomb, where they had arrived after a ten hours' ride across the desert.

And still the excavations were not begun, from want of workmen!

An old Arab, whose only nourishment consisted of the herbs which he browsed on the tumulus, a poor devil who had been robbed by the nomads, and the son of a widow who was dying of starvation in the Gabee, were at last enrolled at fancy prices. On February 28 Marcel and myself took command of this glorious bat-

alion. Full of emotion, I struck the first blow with the pick on the Achæmenidæan tumulus, and worked until my strength gave out. My husband then took his turn with the pick, while our acolytes carried away the loose earth. This was how the excavations at Susa were begun.

The day was drawing to an end when the mason and his companion, who, after having looked for us in vain in the Chaour, had assisted without uttering a word at the inauguration of the works, proposed to engage some workmen and bring them to us. Their offer was accepted at once, and a daily premium was promised for each workman, picker or shoveller. Forty-eight hours afterward sixty Dizfoulis animated with their presence the long-abandoned tumuli.

The weather was rainy; our tents leet in the moisture; provisions were short; our soup, cooked in the open air, was better provided with rain-water than with butter; nevertheless, we were joyous—joyous because we had reached Susa, joyous because we had taken possession of the site which we had so long aspired to excavate, joyous because we had at last some workmen at our disposal.

Our happiness was short-lived.

On March 2 a courier arrived with a letter from the Governor, written in French by Dr. Moustapha. Here it is in its entirety:

"MONSIEUR,—The Mussulmans are ignorant, uncivilized, and outside rules; they are, in short, a stumbling-block in the way of your labors. In my absence it is very difficult for you, I believe, to direct your mission. The tumult of passions of the religion of Islam will cause, perhaps, a great danger, which it will be impossible for me to ward off.

"It is good to deposit your things at Dizfoul, in the charge of Mirza Abdoul Khahim, and to come and stay at Chouster with me.

"After my return to Dizfoul you will be able to attend to your business with the escort, the force, and the advice of the government.

"Yours truly,

"MOZAFFER-EL-MOLK."

The unexpected arrival of this wonderful document threw my husband into a state of cruel perplexity. The bearer, on being questioned, furnished some supplementary explanations. More than six hundred fanatics had set out for Susa three days previously; they were armed with guns, lances, and slings, and were advancing, intoxicated with the smell of



ARABIAN DANCING MEN.

powder, with the intention of attacking the violators of the tomb of Daniel, the infidels who were seeking to appropriate the relics of the prophet. The three sons of the Sheik Taër had arrived at full gallop, and with great difficulty induced the fanatics to turn back, by promising them that their father himself would lead them to massacre us, if the holy priests sent in hot haste to our camp should discover any foundation for the accusations brought against the Christians. In short, the excitement was extreme, and the life of the members of the mission in peril, if they persisted in remaining at Susa. This was explained the singular visit we had received, and the delay of our spy in rejoining us.

On the other hand, there was no mistake to be made: to leave the tumulus the day after this scene was equivalent to abandoning forever the hope of excavating Susa. The Governor would certainly not come to Dizfoul before the summer; that is to say, before the season when the climate of Susiana becomes so torrid that the natives themselves cannot go out in the daytime, but live in cellars dug

thirty feet below the surface in order to protect themselves from the mortal rays of the sun.

My husband called us all together, communicated to us the Governor's letter, and also his formal intention of remaining on the tumulus and of continuing the works in spite of everything. We all applauded this manly resolution.

The chief of the mission then replied to Mozaffer-el-Molk that, in spite of his desire to please him, he could not desert a post which the French government had intrusted to him after a special understanding with the Shah. If popular fanaticism endangered the lives of the members of the mission, it was the duty of the Governor to watch over the security of the emissaries of a friendly power.

In order to put an end to the suspicions which the arrival of a courier had begun to awaken amongst the workmen, always in dread of the official rod, my husband ordered Ousta Hassan, who had been promoted to the dignity of head contractor, to double the number of laborers. Henceforward the excavations proceeded with the greatest activity. The Arabs, so dis-

dainful in the beginning, came in crowds to offer their services and their spades, and it was not the least of our troubles every morning to drive away the intruders, who came in hundreds, and threatened to pillage the tents when they were not admitted to the honor of working under our orders. However, the first trenches began to deepen. In spite of the interruptions caused by the abundant rain, we had reached a depth of nearly fourteen feet without finding anything except some fine funeral urns, covered each with round stone stoppers, each containing a skeleton, when the pick of one of the workmen all at once laid bare a bed of queer white-colored materials which looked like agglomerated concrete. Heaven be praised! One of the sides of these parallelopipeds was coated with colored enamel.

The trench was directed parallel with the façade of the palace, and the methodical excavation continued for about 200 feet, with a breadth of 26 feet. One month later we were able to put together on the floor of our tent the enamels composing magnificent lions in low relief, each measuring six feet in height and over eleven feet from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail. The animal stands out against a turquoise blue background; the body is white, the head surrounded by a sort of green victorine, the mustache blue and yellow, the flanks white, the belly blue. In spite of its extravagant coloration the beast has a terribly ferocious aspect.

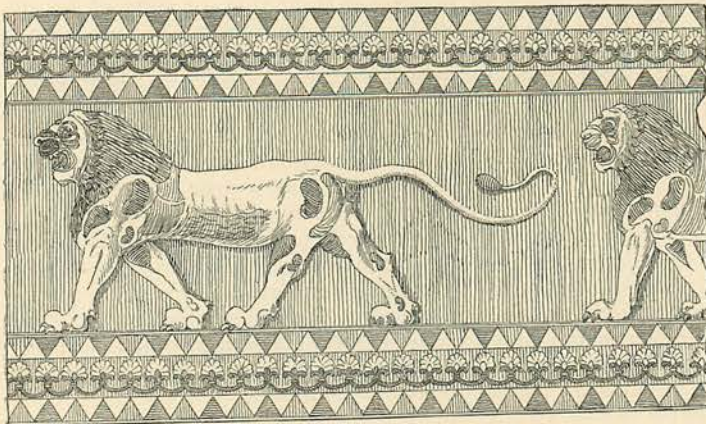
Above and below this bass-relief were two friezes composed of blue and green dentils, and small white ornaments re-

sembling palm leaves, supported by yellow ribbons. Merlons covered with bluish-gray enamel complete the decoration at the top.

To the right of the room it was easy to see that there was an interruption in the deposit of enamelled débris, indicating the position of a vast entrance; finally the position of the bricks, and of the unbaked clay walls against which they were fixed, showed that the lions, nine in number, had crowned a pylon, and had fallen on to the paved floor of the court, breaking the tiles situated below the enamelled bricks, and leaving intact those which had not borne the shock of the wall. Mixed up with the bricks we found a skeleton crushed by the fall of the masonry, a marvellous opal seal which once belonged to Xerxes, a cone of carved ivory, and a thousand interesting utensils.

These discoveries were the most important of the whole campaign. The east trenches, however, gave us some entirely new information about the ancient fortifications, and furnished a contingent of various objects, such as spear heads, tear bottles, bronze and terra-cotta lamps, engraved stones, bronze coins, and a series of funeral urns arranged in files, and often one row on the top of another. One of these urns, isolated contrary to the usage, especially attracted our attention. It rested on a basis formed of slabs of concrete. On demolishing this pedestal we noticed that each slab was enamelled; on the edge of one was painted and modelled a beard; on others the arms of a black-skinned person, life size, clothed with richly colored stuffs. What were these

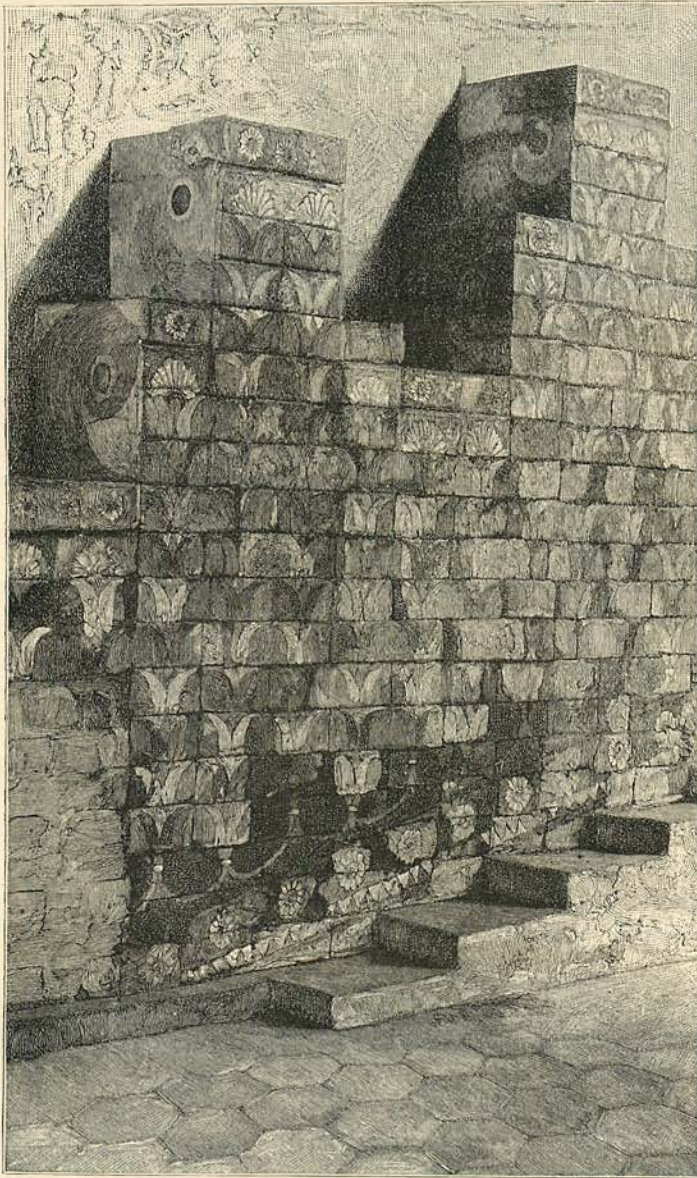
men with superb vestments? Were we in presence of those Ethiopians of the Levant of whom Homer and Herodotus speak? Were the Nakhounta the descendants of a princely family related to the black races who reigned in the south of Egypt? We thought also that perhaps, after the example of the Greeks who paint-



COLOSSAL LION IN ENAMELLED FAIENCE.

ed black the body of the men, and left white the skin of the women, the Susians might have systematically used conven-

hands upset this hypothesis, at first sight so tempting. While we were digging trenches in the three tumuli, we took care



ENAMELLED BRICK STAIRCASE.

tional colors. This seemed to us all the more admissible as the mouth of our enamelled personage was fine and delicate. But the discovery of a white man's hand in enamel similar in form to the black

not to abandon the fragments of capitals discovered by Loftus. With time and infinite patience we had just succeeded in getting some very heavy stones out of the trenches, when the first detachments of



STONE INTAGLIO CYLINDER, NO. 1.—[SEE PAGE 21.]

the pilgrims who come every year to do homage to the prophet arrived at Daniel's tomb.

The desire to examine at close quarters "the four Faranghis," about whom the most fantastic legends were current, contributed to increase very considerably the numbers of the devout. Henceforward our situation became intolerable. Every day hundreds of pilgrims poured in by the road from Dizfoul, accompanied by their asses, their wives, and their children. No sooner had they arrived than they rushed into the trenches, picked up the bones which we could not conceal in certain places, so great was the quantity, insulted us—at a good distance—fired their guns in our ears without a word of warning, became wild with rage at our calmness in presence of these aggressive demonstrations, and finally broke at night all

the objects which were too heavy to be carried to our tents. Fifty funeral urns, a whole family vault, placed all ready to be photographed, were thus smashed to atoms during a storm. The bulls soon came in for their turn; and in order to avoid irreparable damage we were obliged to give up the complete excavation of the Apadâna. Marcel would have set guards over the trenches, but the bravest of the workmen shut themselves up in the tomb of Daniel immediately after sunset, and neither silver nor gold would tempt them to face the divas, the fairies, the enchanters, and above all the thieves, who peopled the tumuli. I cannot blame them for this cowardice, for the camp itself offered neither repose nor security. At one moment the nomads would approach stealthily and try to carry off our horses; at the next moment it was the hen-pen that was



INTAGLIO CYLINDER, NO. 2.



INTAGLIO CYLINDER, NO. 3.

rified by two-legged jackals; then, again, the servants would be heard calling all the members of the mission to defend the pots and kettles against the ravages of marauders. Not a night passed without Marcel leading a *sortie en masse* against

I slipped and fell. It did not come into my mind to punish the stone, first cause of my accident, like Xerxes chastising the Hellespont; nevertheless I pushed aside the vegetation, and discovered beneath a tuft of marsh-mallows a white slab in concrete similar to the concrete of the lions. To run to the tents, to get a pick, and pull out of the ground six or eight of these bricks enamelled on one edge was the affair of a few minutes. Below this first layer was a second, and below that a third, and a tenth, and a twentieth. The balustrade which is now in the Louvre was discovered thus in a wall of the fortifications which had been repaired under the Sassanides.



INTAGLIO CYLINDER, NO. 5.

the plunderers. Determined to sell our lives dearly if the nomads made bold enough to attack our tents, we had contracted the habit of sleeping in our clothes, and with loaded arms for bedfellows; but these excellent precautions did not make up for sleepless nights, nor did they give us that rest which we needed after the long hours passed in the trenches.

I was inspecting one day the numerous crevices which streak the flanks of the Achæmenidæan tumulus when I set my foot on a hard body which I had not noticed through the grass.

covered with branches of lotus terminated by white palmettes. Some black feet shod with yellow or blue shoes, some black hands, enamelled, but painted flat and not in relief, and some fragments of a very elegant polychrome decoration closed the series of our last discoveries. The time



INTAGLIO CYLINDER, NO. 4.



INTAGLIO CYLINDER, NO. 6.

and the days passed, and passed miserably, in struggles now against the pilgrims and now against the warring tribes, who robbed our flour convoys and stole our sheep. As for making complaints, it was not to be thought of. To whom could we complain? "You have remained at Susa against my advice," the Governor would have replied; "you must get out of the mess yourselves the best way you can."

In the midst of all this, Professor Houssay was sent on an embassy to the Sheik Taër, in order to ask his authorization to build on the lands of Daniel a house for the shelter of the members of the mission. The experience of a winter passed in tents had convinced my husband of the necessity of having in future a shelter, not only against the heavy rains of the win-

ter season, but solid walls behind which we could set the pilgrims and the marauders at defiance.

The Sheik Taër received kindly Monsieur Houssay, who had rapidly learned the language of the country, and granted the desired authority, on condition that when there were no more French at Susa to live in it, the house should be placed at the disposal of the administrators of the domain of Daniel. Finally the venerable mollah promised to come and visit our works in person. Three days afterward the road from Dizfoul seemed to us to be black with people. Escorted by five hundred persons, the sheik was on his way to the tomb of Daniel, where he intended to await the visit of Marcel, while his sons came to the tents to salute us.

The double ceremony passed off without any mishap; it even had an unhopedor result. As soon as the workmen and the pilgrims saw on what terms the mission was with the religious chief of the province, we suddenly found ourselves enjoying relative calm, which was all the more appreciated considering that since the beginning of our enterprise we had not had a single night's undisturbed rest.

Unfortunately the heat became daily more intolerable. Some of the men had fallen sun-struck in the trenches; it was impossible to remain in the bottom of these ovens. Finally the grain crops were ripe, and we were inevitably approaching the end of our campaign. We closed it very pleasantly, and a banquet composed of rice and mutton, washed down with Chaour water, sealed our good relations with the workmen. The tomb of Daniel was transformed into a banquet-



BRONZE STATUETTE.

ing hall and dancing saloon. After the repast a deputation came up to the tents, and proceeded solemnly to kiss the feet of each of our party; then the best talker of the group delivered a speech. My husband was thanked for having abstained

our treasures. Fifty-four boxes, made—Heaven knows how—with Dizfoul wood and nails, were filled, and the objects which could not be put into them were buried by night in a spot known to ourselves alone.



FRIEZE OF ARCHERS FROM THE PALACE OF DARIUS.

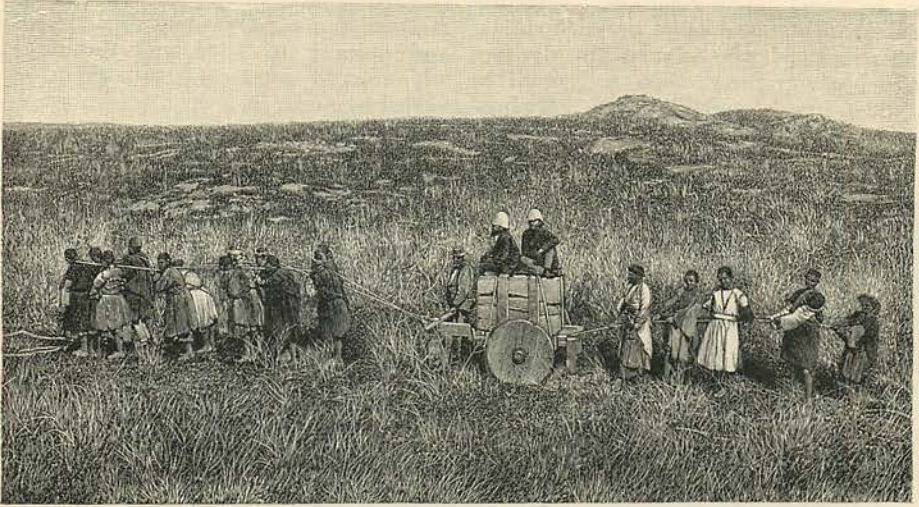
from clubbing his workmen, although no one would have ever contested his right to do so; he was thanked for having settled with justice the various differences which had arisen during the past three months between the men and their masters; Lieutenant Babin was praised to the skies for having handed over the pay to the workmen in its entirety, "without having kept back a farthing for his own profit"; Professor Houssay received the blessings of the sick, to whom he had given consultations, medicine, and money. I will not say what share came to me in this general distribution of compliments, but I remember that I was not forgotten. In short, the speaker expressed the hope that they would see us again after the hot season, and that then they would be all the more devoted in their service, as they were the better acquainted with us.

We had to think now of packing up

After having endured many vicissitudes and many privations without our general harmony and good-humor having been disturbed for a single instant, the mission separated into two parts. Messieurs Babin and Houssay went into Persia, properly so called, where they were to make a journey for the purpose of special studies, while my husband and myself proceeded to arrange the transport to France of the precious packages which had been so laboriously got together.

We were anxious to avoid a journey of nearly two hundred miles across a country where objects taken from the belongings of the prophet were looked upon as talismans and treasures. We therefore resolved to get into Turkey as soon as possible.

At last we reached Amarah, a small town recently built on the banks of the



TRANSPORTING TREASURES ACROSS THE JUNGLE FROM SUSA TO THE PERSIAN GULF.—[SEE PAGE 23.]

Tigris, and on the itinerary of the English boats. Our boxes were therefore safe so far, and we thought that we were now going to enjoy a well-earned rest. What an illusion! We had scarcely landed from our boats when the custom-house officers of the Sublime Porte took possession of us. From our sorry looks they imagined that travellers worn out by fatigue and fever would readily sacrifice a few Turkish pounds to their desire to return home to their country. Without opening our boxes they estimated their value at 100,000 francs, and demanded 1000 francs for transit dues before they would allow us to take them, 5000 francs as caution money, and also a bakshish in proportion to the wildness of their other demands. This was pure extortion. The French consul at Bagdad complained to the Valy Taki-ed-din Pasha, the instigator of the massacres of Aleppo. This gentleman even outbid the pretensions of his inferiors. He gave us to understand that our antiquities might very well have been found on Turkish territory, and in that case they ought to be sent to the museum of Constantinople.

We obtained, however, the favor of having our boxes taken on to Bassorah, but once there we were kept continually under strict watch, while gun-boats cruised in the river with orders to sink us if the slightest attempt at escape were made.

The only thing to be done was to return

to France in order to have the matter treated diplomatically. The boxes were all sealed with the seal of the French consulate, and deposited in the custom-house, and broken-hearted we took passage on board a coal-boat bound for Aden. We had with us only three trunks, containing the lion's head and the small objects. These three cases passed as personal luggage.

An announcement from the Persian Prime Minister, repealing our firmans, arrived at Paris a few days after us. Negotiations were undertaken which resulted in obtaining the prolongation of the *statu quo* at least for one year.

His Majesty of Persia and his son the Prince Zellè Sultan consented not to officially revoke the orders given in the preceding year, orders which, as we have seen, were so badly carried out.

In these precarious conditions we took the road to Susa once more in the beginning of October. A gun-boat stationed at Aden was to carry us as far as Bassorah, thus render our return more rapid, and, above all, assert the intentions of the French government. The *Scorpion* reached Bouchyr, where we found Messieurs Babin and Houssay, but not, as we had hoped, the renewal of our firmans. Three weeks passed thus, and when at last Persian territory was open to us anew, the rainy season was beginning. The Amarah road being shorter than the Chouster road, we

chose it. It would take too long to relate the incidents of this journey, but in brief we did not reach Susa until December 12, sixty-eight days after leaving Marseilles.

The hundred voices of fame soon announced our arrival to the nomads, and the very next day crowds of workmen arrived, and the excavations were resumed as smoothly as if they had not been interrupted at all.

My husband had agreed to stop the excavations before the beginning of the pilgrimages, that is to say, before April 1. He was obliged, therefore, to modify his original plans, which had been conceived with a view to a durable organization. The Achæmenidæan tumulus was best suited for rapid excavations. The level of the floor of the palace had been discovered the preceding year, and the depth of the trenches was not excessive. My husband resolved, therefore:

1. To go on with the excavations begun in 1852 by Loftus on the site of the Apadâna, continued in 1885 by the French mission, and interrupted at the epoch of the pilgrimage in order to save the sculptures laid bare from certain destruction.

2. To try to determine the position of the stairway of which I had discovered the balustrade in one of the walls of the fortification.

3. To find the junction of the pylones, and the position of the perimeter of the palace.

The results of these different undertakings fully came up to our expectations. On the floor of the Apadâna we exhumed, besides the fragments seen by Loftus, the entire body of a bicephalous bull in a perfect state of preservation, another bull's head very beautifully worked, shafts and bases of columns, the double volutes placed below the capital, the surrounding walls of the throne-room, which the English mission had sought for in vain, some fragments of stone coming from the outer doors, and, finally, some fragments of the facing of the walls and of the pavement.

The excavations alongside the pylones enabled us to find the base of the surrounding wall and a fortified door. This opening was based, contrary to the usage, on terra-cotta foundations. Never, since the beginning of the excavations, had we met with an ancient wall built with similar materials, and Heaven knows how anxiously we had sought for such a precious guide. Monsieur Dieulafoy thought at

once of the palace of Darius, destroyed, according to the account of Artaxerxes Mnemon, in the reign of his great ancestor—a palace of which the pavement had been found at another point. He was not mistaken. All our efforts were then concentrated on this part of the excavations, and soon our workmen succeeded in taking out, fragment by fragment, the frieze of archers, which in a few months the public will be able to admire in the Louvre Museum.

The bricks composing this frieze, unlike those of the lion, did not affect the form of parallelopipeds. They were flat and square, and made of a kind of concrete combining the whiteness of plaster with the hardness of stone. The subject painted on the edge and treated with minute care was very difficult to recompose. One day we discovered a hand, the next day a foot shod with a golden boot; finally the enamels became abundant, and we were able, aided by the continuity of the subject and by the way it was cut out into rectangular sections, to reconstitute a personage forming part of a bass-relief representing a procession of archers.

The warriors are figured in profile and marching; on their shoulders rest a bow and an immense quiver; they carry a javelin terminating in a silver pomegranate. The vestments are all cut after the same pattern. They are composed of a robe slit in front, of a short shirt with long sleeves, drawn in round the waist by a belt, and a round jacket closed over the breast. A rich band of ornament trims the hem of the garments. The stuffs are different. Some are golden yellow embroidered with blue and green daisies; others have a white ground, and bear on a black escutcheon a picture of the citadel of Susa; sometimes the robes are white, and covered with flowers and stars set off by a black background; the shirt is black or yellow; the boots gold or blue. The archers are crowned with a green torsade, and bedecked with gold ear-rings and bracelets. Their skin is black; the eyes are drawn as if they were seen full face; the nose is arched; the lips thin, and narrowly edged with carmine. The curled beard is relatively short; the hair is curly only at the end. The cuneiform inscriptions on the enamel, which concern the archers, still contain, in spite of their mutilation, the name of "Darius King" in Persian, in Median, and in Assyri-

an, and the following characteristic phrase: "Otana nama parsâ" (a Persian by the name of Otanes). These fragments are very precious, for, in the absence of more precise archaeological information, they suffice to date the monument.

My husband was right in considering the Susian people to be an isolated tribe of the most ancient colonists of Asia, those blacks of the Rig-Veda, those Ethiopians of the Levant mentioned by Homer and described by Herodotus.

The anthropological studies of Professor Houssay on the present inhabitants of Susiana and the examination of the well-preserved skeletons discovered in the funeral urns furthermore tend to show that within the past eighteen hundred years the anatomic characteristics of the black races have been continually growing weaker, though they may still be found in all the townfolk of Arabistan.

Besides these enamelled faiences, the excavations of the palace of Darius brought to light fragments of sculpture on terracotta of a very peculiar character. They are neither painted nor enamelled; their elementary forms have entirely lost any conventional character; and the *ensemble* of the bass-relief is modelled with surprising skill and ability, although the subjects are borrowed from the fantastic fauna of Chaldea. Here it was a wild beast like those which are reproduced on the bass-reliefs of Persepolis; there it was a bull represented in profile, and nevertheless with two divergent horns. These animals were surrounded by friezes covered with a cuneiform text engraved by hand on the edge of the bricks. Some of the inscriptions are in Persian; others, written in Assyrian cursive characters, have some connection with Susian texts of the eighth or ninth century B.C.

Although the palace of Darius has hitherto furnished only magnificent fragments of its decoration, the plan of the edifices which in the time of Artaxerxes crowned the Achæmenidean tumulus is now known; we can even reconstitute the Apadâna in its general aspect and in its details. The buildings rose on an almost rectangular platform sixty feet high, surrounded on the east and west by fortifications. The summit of the northern defences, terminating just at the level of the platform of the palace, allowed the eye to embrace the whole chain of the Bakhtyaris Mountains, the plain, and the town of

Susa. The southern front formed one of the sides of the interior court comprised between the citadel and the Elamite tumulus. The grand entrance to this court was situated in the axis of the palace, to the south and at the foot of the walls of the citadel. Without concerning myself with the lateral constructions, I pass through the gate and proceed toward the palace of Artaxerxes. In front of me is a gigantic stairway between two towers, which form part of the system of fortifications. I admire the enamelled hand-rail; I mount the steps, so easy that they might be mounted on horseback, and I reach the outer court, bounded on the east and west by the ramparts. Porticos supported by pillars and decorated with fantastic animals occupy the middle of the wings; facing the stairway is an opening flanked by two pylones, faced with white and rose mosaic, and surmounted by a magnificent procession of enamelled lions. Before crossing the threshold of the inner court I perceive the throne-room.

The "Apadâna"* was isolated from all the surrounding constructions on the south by the inner court, on the north, the east, and the west by a gently sloping road reserved for the royal chariots, which mounted there from the plain to the top of the platform. The three colonnades of the palace and their bicephalous capitals escaped the view of visitors, unless they caught a glimpse of them through the large openings placed at their extremities. For that matter they had full leisure to admire the elegance and the majesty before penetrating into the royal precincts, inasmuch as the throne-room dominated with its whole height the fortifications on the north. In the time of Darius the walls forming the back of the colonnades must have been adorned with processions of warriors, and with those endless inscriptions destined to proclaim the glory of the Achæmenidæ.

Such was, in its main outlines, the official dwelling of a Khchayâthia,† further embellished by fountains, ponds, flower-gardens, and works of art, which must have been marvellous if we are to believe the Greeks, who were good judges in the matter. If it be granted that simplicity

* Apadâna is the word by which the Persians designated the throne-room. This expression has passed into Hebrew with the meaning of tabernacle.

† Persian name for King, whence comes the title of Shah, borne at the present day by the sovereigns of Persia.

of plan, clearness of arrangement, and harmony of *ensemble* are the supreme expressions of architectural beauty, the Apadána of Artaxerxes must have been one of the finest edifices of antiquity.

The excavation of the Apadána did not alone absorb the attention of the chief of the mission; the examination of the natural crevices which had not yet been invaded by the tall herbage gave a most interesting result, for it led to the discovery of a narrow trench, carefully filled up with gravel, the presence of which in this particular place was soon to lead my husband to reconstitute with certitude the ancient fortifications which surrounded the palace of the great kings. The rôle and the position of this lining, which was similar to the works used by our modern engineers for the protection of a retaining wall, having been once recognized, it became straightway easy to follow the trench full of pebbles at all points where it had not been buried beneath too thick a mass of rubbish, and thus to isolate the exterior wall from the retaining wall, and to re-establish the situation of the exterior facing parallel with the lining, and distant from the latter some seventy-five feet. We were thus in possession of the perimeter and exact extent of the defensive works of Susa, but the principal elements of the transversal sections were wanting—a regrettable lacuna, which fresh researches, facilitated by a happy concurrence of circumstances, at last filled up. We even discovered the grand gate of the royal precincts, and near it there was still lying a fragment of the panels, covered with triple brass, nailed, and embossed.

The Susian fortification comprised, first of all, a moat filled with water and communicating with the Chaour. The exterior rampart, built with hollow bricks, was 75 feet broad and 70 feet high. This latter dimension is obtained by adopting as a plane of comparison the average level of the plain, taken 55 feet below the pavement of the Apadána of Artaxerxes. Against the inner side of the wall, and separated from it by the lining of gravel, there leaned a mass of beaten earth 85 feet thick and 55 feet high. On this platform of embanked earth rose two groups of buildings parallel to each other, which served as casemated barracks and passages where the defenders of the place could circulate without danger even when

the first zone of defences was in the power of the enemy. A second rampart, 57 feet broad, formed by two unbaked brick walls 11 feet and 15 feet thick, with between them earth beaten down while wet, dominated the first line of defences. And behind this second zone there was a rampart road, the dimensions of which we could not determine. Generally the plan of the fortifications is not bastioned; it affects the form of a saw, with the teeth set at right angles.

These strong and intelligent defensive works had rendered legendary the celebrated fortress of Susa; its reputation was not usurped, for this same stronghold, which opened wide its gates to Alexander, enabled a thousand Macedonians to resist for a whole year the efforts of the revolted Persians.

Our expedition has enriched the Louvre with 302 engraved stones or rollers. Some of them are very remarkable, either for their masterly execution, or for their antiquity, or for the novelty of the subjects which they represent. I will mention some of them:

1. A roller in diorite about an inch and a half high. The subject represented is some very archaic religious scene. The god of the worshipper, and perhaps the wife of the worshipper, figure in the picture, also the victim, the sacrificial instruments, the lunar arc, the solar asterisk, and an inscription in archaic characters which occupies two lines and a half. The god wears a complicated tiara and a long fringed scarf, which is wrapped around the body in such a manner as to leave free the shoulder and the right arm. The man and the woman wear a similarly draped costume, through which never a needle passed. The preservation of this specimen is perfect, but its execution is primitive.

2. A roller of light green porphyry about one and a half inches high. The engraver represents for us the combat of Isdoubar and his servant Noubain against the bulls and lions that were devastating the land. This intaglio, as fine in drawing and execution as the most celebrated rollers of the De Clercq collection, or of the Metropolitan Museum of New York, testifies to the possession by the eminent artists of old Chaldæa of a knowledge of anatomy and a superior talent such as their Assyrian and Babylonian successors never showed. Even the grouping of the per-

sonages has been treated with minute care: it is most curious, for instance, to notice how the horns, the shoulders, and the thighs of the two standing bulls form a delicious scroll, in the centre of which was engraved an inscription which has been unfortunately worn down. Without hesitation I should declare this superb intaglio to be six or seven thousand years old. It must be contemporaneous with those kings of Agadé whose names and great deeds have been revealed to us by the inscriptions of the last sovereigns of Babylon.

3. A roller of rock-crystal 1.378 inches high. A harpist and a guitar-player are giving a concert to a monkey and a goat placed between the musicians. The picture is most interesting, because it reproduces with charming grace a domestic scene which I have never before found represented. The costume of the personages is Chaldæan.

4. A roller of light green porphyry one inch high. A scene of adoration marvelously modelled and executed. In this charming intaglio you discern distinctly the arrangement of the draped costumes to which I have already called attention in describing roller No. 1. I have every reason to believe that this seal belonged to a royal Chaldæan princess, whose title will be found in the inscription. It is for the Assyriologists to decide whether this interpretation is exact.

5. A roller of rock-crystal 0.709 of an inch high. An androcephalous bull, a variation of the geniuses placed at the doors of Assyrian palaces. This intaglio is remarkable on account of the rarity of the subject represented and its superb execution.

6. A roller of white marble 1.181 inches high. The Greek legends tell us of dolphins which served Arion as coursers, but I never heard of riding on carp to go a-fishing with a trident. Facing the aquatic rider, a gentleman, lightly clad, reclines on a couch. This second personage is doubtless *blasé* as regards all the exploits of his companion, for he seems to be entirely occupied with the flower whose perfume he smells, and with the bird which is flying in the air.

7. Royal Achæmenidæan seal, in flax gray opal, 0.787 of an inch diameter—a magnificent stone, engraved doubtless for Xerxes or Artaxerxes I. (See illustration at the head of this article.) The medal-

lion of the King, surmounted by the great god Avuramazda, is placed between two sphinxes wearing the white crown of Upper Egypt. This intaglio, of a truly royal art, is particularly remarkable as a specimen of the Achæmenidæan art of Persepolis.

In connection with these intaglios I may notice a little bronze four inches high, to obtain which nearly cost us our lives.

As I cannot prolong indefinitely even the summary description of the 1000 or 1200 monuments discovered in the course of our campaigns of 1884-5 and 1885-6, I will content myself with a succinct recapitulation of the objects which we brought back to France.

1. Two fragments of a frieze in enamelled faience adorned with lions in low relief, and coming from the pylones of the palace of Artaxerxes Mnemon. These two fragments together measure 13 feet high by 29 long.

2. A fragment of a frieze in enamelled faience adorned with eleven royal guards of the corps of the Immortals, and coming from the palace of Darius. This fragment is 15 feet high and 30 feet long.

3. Two fragments of the balustrade of a staircase in enamelled faience.

4. Three fragments of a frieze in terracotta representing fantastic animals.

These fragments together measure 6 feet high and 20 feet long.

5. A bicephalous capital resting on its volutes, 17 feet high and 13 feet broad, coming from the palace of Artaxerxes.

6. A superb collection of engraved stones, comprising in all 302 seals or rollers, dating from the most archaic times down to the Sassanides.

7. A great number of cuneiform inscriptions, mostly Susian or Achæmenidæan. These inscriptions are engraved on clay and on stone, or enamelled on bricks.

8. Bronze coins from Susiana and the adjoining countries of the epoch of the Parthians and the Sassanides.

9. Some bronze, terra-cotta, marble, and ivory statuettes.

10. A part of the bronze covering of the outer doors of the palace of Artaxerxes.

11. A series of glass tear bottles.

12. Some 500 objects of secondary importance, comprising enamelled Sassanide vases, Parthian funeral urns, a headless sandstone statue, arms of iron and bronze, lamps, toilet utensils, marble vases, altars, fragments of enamelled bricks and

of sculptured stones, funeral inscriptions, etc.

13. Susian inscriptions which have been buried from 1700 to 2000 years.

14. Plaster casts of the large bases of the palace, of their inscriptions, and of other objects too heavy to be transported.

15. A series of photographic views of the most important aspects of the tumuli, the works, and the native types of Susiana.

16. A relief plan of the tumulus and of the excavations, made by Lieutenant Babin.

Our establishment at Susa and the work of excavation presented great difficulties. Nothing, however, in all the trials which the mission had endured there is worthy to be compared with the anxiety of all kinds and with the material suffering which the transportation of our treasures caused us. We had to pack and drag nearly fifty tons of boxes, some of which weighed not less than three tons, across a pathless desert continually scoured by nomads living exclusively on plunder, and that too with the aid of men and animals who had not the most elementary ideas either of carts or harness. Thanks

to the indefatigable devotion of our young collaborators and to the invincible obstinacy of Monsieur Dieulafoy, we nevertheless got the better of difficulties which seemed at first to be insurmountable.

We made carts and harness; the mules learned to draw; and the men, who were even more frightened than the quadrupeds, learned to drive the teams; the rivers had to be crossed without the aid of bridges. During a journey of nearly two hundred miles, night and day, we were obliged to drive away the robbers with gunshots; and in spite of the nomads, in spite of the difficulties inherent in the soil, and in spite of the temperature, which reached no less than 120° Fahr. in the shade and 163° in the sun, we at last reached the Persian Gulf.

Happily the cruiser of the squadron, *Le Sané*, was waiting for the mission at the mouth of the Shat-el-Arab. It took us on board, utterly worn out with our efforts, and at the end of June brought us within sight of Toulon. It was high time to return to our dear France: half the mission could not have endured a longer stay in Susiana.

MEXICAN NOTES.

III.—COATEPEC.

BY CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER.

ONE inconvenience in travelling in Mexico is the bulky silver money with which the tourist must load himself down. Whenever I moved any distance from the capital I carried a shot-bag full of the cart-wheel dollars, which were worth from nineteen to twenty-four cents less than United States money. The Bank of London and South America, in Mexico, issues notes which are current in the states of Mexico and Michoacan, and perhaps elsewhere, but not good in the state of Vera Cruz, although the bank officials assured us they were. Consequently we have this anomaly, which is characteristic of Mexico, that while the railway company of the Mexican Railway received these notes for fare at the Mexican end, they would not take them at all at the Vera Cruz terminus. The first-class fare, in an exceedingly roomy and comfortable coach—263 miles in about fourteen hours—was sixteen dollars. In the train was a car-

load of soldiers in white cotton uniform—a precaution against robbers which the government takes on no other railway in the republic. At every station, also, a guard of half a dozen soldiers appeared on the platform, saluting as the train drew up. On the higher table-land these guards were mounted, and in their fine appearance reminded one of the famous *Guardias Civiles* of Spain.

The morning (February 26) was bright and a little cool; the twin snow peaks sparkled crystal white in the clear air. The road runs in the Mexican basin north of Lake Tezcoco, through a region highly cultivated, bristling with cacti of grotesque forms, the fields marked by lines of the maguey plant, frequent adobe villages, with clusters of the stately organ cactus grouped about the huts, the whole plain full of the stir of agricultural life and movement. As we rose among the hills the clean maguey plant was more