

called 'The Sun of the Sea,' and the other, 'Moon of the Mountains.'

"Toward the close of a reign glorified by many deeds of heroism, this tyranny of Nadyr Shah excited his subjects to rebellion. To subdue the outbreak, he raised a numerous force and placed it under the command of his nephew, Ali-Kuli-Khan. But his nephew turned against him, raised the standard of independence, and challenged his uncle to open battle. Nadyr then marched in person to encounter the rebels; but, before departing from his capital, he collected his vast treasures and sent them together with the young princes, his sons, under the escort of Nasralla Mirza, to the strong fortress of Kelat—a place deemed impregnable. This was in the year 1747 (1160 of the *Negira*).

"Nadyr's impending doom was sealed. He had pitched his camp at Khabusham; and during the night, whilst he was sleeping, his nephew and three assassins stole into his tent and murdered him. The head, at whose nod all Asia so lately trembled, was now severed from the body, exhibited in triumph to the insurgent soldiery.

"The rebels were victorious, and most of the strongholds which had belonged to the late Shah, were surrendered or were taken by storm. Kelat, the amazing strength of whose fortifications caused it to be regarded as one of the world's wonders, long held out against the attacks of his assailants; but, finally, accident effected what force might never have accomplished. A soldier, sent to procure water, descended from one of the towers by a ladder, which he afterward neglected to remove. This did not escape the observation of some scouts who were on the watch. Information of the circumstance was communicated to the besiegers, who, having gained access to the tower, soon made themselves masters of the fortress, within whose walls a frightful massacre ensued. The young princes fled, were pursued and taken. All were put to death save the youngest, a boy of fourteen, who,

under the title of Ali Shah, subsequently ascended to the throne of Khorassan.

"The jewels and money which Nadyr had placed in security at Kelat, now belonged, by right of inheritance, to Ali Shah, who ordered them removed to his capital. On examination, it was discovered that many of the valuables had been abstracted, by pillage and among the missing jewels was 'Moon of the Mountain.' Indefatigable search was made, and large rewards offered for its recovery; but in vain. It was given up for lost.

"At that time there dwelt in Bassara a rich merchant, named Shaftrat, such, at least was his real name, but on account of his vast wealth, he was usually distinguished by an appellation synonymous with the term Millionaire. One day this merchant was visited by an Afghan chief who offered to sell him some costly jewels. Among them was the lost 'Moon of the Mountain.' The price demanded for it, though great, was far below its value. Nevertheless the cautious Shaftrat was unwilling to disburse so large a sum without due consideration. He requested to be allowed time to think the matter over. At this proposition the Afghan appeared uneasy and suspicious. But after some hesitation he acceded to the delay. The merchant having maturely weighed the expediency of the purchase, came to the determination of possessing himself of the diamond, and he went in quest of the stranger. Great was his astonishment on learning that the Afghan chief had left Bassara, and that no one knew with any certainty whither he had gone. Mortified at his disappointment, Shaftrat made diligent search for the holder of the diamond, and, after very great difficulty, he traced him to Bagdad. The bargain was now struck, without further delay, and the diamond became the property of the wealthy merchant of Bassara.

"There arose a new difficulty. How was Shaftrat to dispose of this jewel? He prudently resolved to conceal it for a time, or to keep his transaction with the Afghan