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ASTORIA, OREGON, SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 1887.

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A PERSIAN ADVENTURE.

Marrying in Haste, But not Repenting at Leisure.
(Philadelphia Press.)
Mr. Benjamin, late consul at Teheran, Persia, tells an amusing story of one of the shah's sons-in-law, who took to flight on receiving an intimation that the shah deemed it proper that he should contribute a valuable offering to the royal treasury. When the victim's father had died it had been found that he had left a large share of his large treasures by will unassigned to any heir, directing that it should be buried with him in his tomb. The coffin was deposited in a mosque which was the tomb of a saint called an Imam Zadeh, several days' journey from Teheran. The Moayer-ul-Mamolek informed the princess, his wife, that he proposed to make a pilgrimage to the shrine of a saint—such pilgrimages being greatly esteemed in Persia, adding as they do to a repute for piety. Bidding farewell to the princess, who little thought how long it would be before she should see her husband again, and selecting such tried attendants as could be trusted, the Moayer-ul-Mamolek left Teheran. After proceeding some distance toward the shrine he had mentioned, he took a bridge path that led in the opposite direction, and traveled hard until he reached the shrine. * * * The gray bearded mollah came forth from the gate to welcome the prince with low bows and many a honeyed phrase as he alighted. * * * Overlooking the scene from the housetop was the fair, blooming daughter of the host. Perhaps, with a natural touch of coquetry, she allowed her veil to drop for a moment as the prince looked up. At any rate, the sight of the young maiden suggested to him a means of assistance in the maturing of his plan. * * * After the evening repast the prince gave the host and father of the damsel to understand that he would like to have her to wife. It is so common for Persian gentlemen high in rank, including the shah himself, to select wives far lower in station than themselves, that there was nothing in the proposal to excite surprise, although it gave the old mollah great pleasure to think that he was to be allied to a prince. Nor was he staggered on learning that the would-be husband desired the marriage to take place without delay, for haste regarding an affair of such importance is also not uncommon in Persia. The preliminaries having all been arranged, a priest was sent for, who drew up and signed the marriage contracts. And thus in a few brief hours the young country girl, who had never before seen her husband, not only found but wedded him—and he a prince and son-in-law of a King.

When the Moayer-ul-Mamolek was alone with his bride he told her that, notwithstanding the suddenness of his attachment to her, his love was so intense that he desired to present her with an extraordinary token of his regard. In a word, it was his wish to bestow on her a diadem of rare value and beauty which had been in his family for generations. Unfortunately this prize was not in his possession. * * * It was included with the treasures hidden in the shrine of the saint, of which her father held the key, under solemn oath not to deliver neither key nor treasures to a living soul. The bride of an hour eagerly replied if this were all the impediment that hindered possession of the gem, she could overcome it. The key of the shrine her father kept according to Persian custom, under his pillow; and as he slept soundly, she was confident of being able to secure and return it before he should awake at the call of the morning prayer.

She stole through the house barefooted and managed to get possession of the key without awakening her father and brought it to her husband. The nobleman gave his bride a parting kiss, promising in a few brief moments to bring her the coveted gift. He proceeded at once to Imam Zadeh, where his servants were awaiting him with horses. * * * It took only a short time to rifle the tomb of its riches and load them in the saddle-

bags on the horses, and then the word was "To horse and away." The bride waited long. Such treachery was a new experience to her. Her hopes gradually passed to despair. When morning came she realized that she had not only lost her husband, but incurred as well the dire indignation of her father. But while she was lamenting the bridegroom was flying for his life toward the Caspian sea. At Mesched-i-Sar the fugitives found a steamer bound to Baku, in Russia. On board of this vessel they escaped to Europe and traveled to Paris.

An Important Decision.
WASHINGTON, March 11.—Secretary Lamar, in the case of Leander Scott vs. the Kansas Pacific railway, has decided to adhere to the present system of adjusting the limits of land grants to railways, and reject the plan proposed by commissioner Sparks. The decision, in its ramifications, and on account of the land involved, is thought by some to be the most important ever rendered by the interior department. Had the decision of commissioner Sparks been approved, the land grant railways of the country would have been deprived of many millions of acres of land. The commissioner's plan was, in brief, to so adjust land grants as to railways as to give the amount of land to what they would receive on their roads in all cases which have been built, in straight lines. The old system, which was established in 1852, adjudged grants to correspond with the sinuosities of the roads. Senator Dolph is inclined to think that this decision virtually decides the dispute between the Oregon & California railway and the general government, as to whether the former or the latter is entitled to a certain large tract of land near Forest Grove. Commissioner Sparks held that the railroad company was not entitled to said tract, and that filings under the general land laws by persons settling thereon should be received. It is thought that the secretary's decision will have the effect to restore the land to the railway.

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