CHAPTER IV

Six Months in Persia; A Review

Among the British Indian Officials the name of Edward Stack stands most supreme. His travelogue *Six Months in Persia* in two volumes, volume I. pp.294; volume II. pp.319, was published by Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Ravington in 1882 in London. Each volume consists of thirteen chapters, written in English. It is English type nonfiction book dealing with the subject of Iran—Description et voyages. Item details of this work are documental type. Apropos of this first U.S edition, many reviews have been made. For example in the footnote of the introductory chapter of a book namely *The Mikirs*, the judgment about this travelogue has been given by Sir Fredric Goldsmid in this way, (1) "a really clever and trustworthy readable book." According to Charles Lyall ¹ this judgment is the best of all judges. In the light of above statements it can be said that the aforementioned travelogue is not an ordinary one, as, the above review was made by Colonel Sir Fredric John Goldsmid, Director General of Indo European Telegraph from 1865-72 and author of two very informative books (1) *Telegraph and Travel* and (2) *Eastern Persia: An account of the Journey of Persian Boundary Commission*.

*Six Months in Persia* does not contains any introduction, index, glossary, map and route in spite of this it is not inferior in any way than the other travelogue of great repute. It is an important storehouse of information of Iran and has portrayed the history, society, geography and polity of Iran as it existed at that time. As the people, places, social, political and economical condition of Iran have been mentioned without distortion and misrepresentation; it left deep impression on reader's mind. For instance Cyrus Ghani found the book covering all important matters relevant to Iran. He, about the book and its author what does

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¹ British Orientalist, Civil servant and Arabic scholar held various offices in India. He was the Chief Commissioner in the district of Assam and known in India for his valuable and difficult task of editing the book *The Mikir.*
opines writes thus, (2) "A detailed account in the form of a diary of travels in Persia including visits to Bushehr, Shiraz, Persepolis, Kerman, Yazd, Esfahan, Tehran, the Caspian region and Russia. There are some interesting accounts of discussions with tribal leaders. The author has also a good eye for the country side and there are excellent descriptions."

The travelogue opening directly with contents devoid of preface and introduction which lost the chance to give an important insight into the author's life sketch. But the way he gives the description of his travel's account supplies some ideas apropos of the author's life. By expressing of his travels in Iran in the form of travel diary Stack aimed was creating a vivid scenario of the country at the same time he vivified his account with occasional description of scenery and amusing event of the land. He never supplied boredom for his readers with the description of mountain, cliff, vegetation, desert and petty villages. There is nothing of the incoherence and dullness of a travel book in *Six Months in Persia*.

Edward Stack in course of his journey to Iran, then known, as Persia, visited many places. His journey begins from 24th January-12th May (v.i) and from 12th May-20th August (v.ii). He dealt with the places he visited under the separate chapters. However chapter x to xii of volume two such as geographical, land revenue and remark on the present condition of Iran are the pleasant digressions which shed light upon land revenue system, political and socio-economic condition of Iran. So far the chapter XIII entitled On Travelling in Persia of this volume is concerned, its matter benefited a lot to the travellers of coming generation. In this chapter he gives the suggestion of the travellers who whole heartedly acknowledged by those travellers who visited this exotic land after the author. As for example George Curzon Nathaneil writes, (3) "For the requisite equipment for caravan travelling in Persia I can do better than refer my readers to cap. xiii of the second vol of Mr. Stack's *Six Months in Persia."

The present work in complete and in good condition, is a valuable document to the history of cultural history of Iran but from the point of
Iranian studies it suffers from certain inadequacies. Viz. it does not contain life sketch of the author, bibliography, illustration and so on. In the entire book there is a rough sketch plan of fire temple\(^2\) of the pre Islamic era (p.92.v.i). The paper, the printing, the get up of the book is quiet good except that there is couple of printing mistakes. E.G. Zaki Beg for Zaki Bey (p.44.v.ii) and with for whit (p.290.v.ii). Fortunately even least portion of the work did not destroy through the ravages of time. After passing 124 years of Christian era its ink is as good as it was earlier.

The travel book *Six Months in Persia* throws a flood of light on the happenings and occurrences of the period it deals with. The account furnished by him is authentic and reliable because he took extensive tour of the country, visited places studied fact and collected information from the persons who were eye witness of the events. In this connection it can be said unlike other prominent figure whose fame rests on the wide range of literary works Stack has attained distinction with only this work.

This work is an attempt to examine life under the political upheaval occurring at that time inside Iran. At the same time it gives glimpses of the political situation of the country outside Iran which called foreigners' attention. The impression received from this account of a journey through Iran is an unusually favourable one. Mr. Stack adorned the travelogue from Persian phrases, Persian poetry along with English translation and the narrative having sense of humour which makes the treatment delightful. His note on the architectural monument of *Masjid-i-Nau* (The new mosque) which is the oldest mosque of the place and the description of *Qubba-i- Sabz* (Green Cupolo) whose dome colour is blue are the best example of his close observation.

Each and every place Stack visited, furnished the information of date including time and name of the months, duration of the halting with

\(^2\) Historical place of worship of Zoroastrian built during the early Achaemenian period which obtained their holy fires from the sacred flame of Azar Gosnasp. After the invasion of Arabia most of them either destroyed or converted into mosque.
exact distance of the place which serve the purpose of a guide book rather than a travelogue. The footnotes of the book are in most cases as scholarly as they are profuse and detail. Some footnotes have been mentioned in the Persian language in Roman script. In order to make his point worthwhile he derived material from original source. History of Persia by Sir John Malcolm and Through Persia by Caravan by Arthur Arnold is the base of his work.

The book describing Stack’s travel in Iran and India contains considerable materials on India which might be useful for those Indian who are interested to know that India which existed at author’s time. For instance Stack’s description of Kunar or Jujube tree, Persian pipe, Bandemer\(^3\), Hsainia, Seths are sure to have their parallel in Indian common ber. huqqa, nullah. Imam bara \(^4\) and bankdar. Being a keen observer he noted that Indian dance is one degree better than the nautch of Iran, observed by him in the marriage ceremony of the son of the Governor Fatır Ali Khan.

There is some informations of the condition of the Iranian and Indian prisoner and peasant. There is a contrast between Shiraz and Indian Bazar, famine and drought. A scrappy note on his likeness of British possession in India is informative from the political point of view. Besides, Indian Kachchahri\(^5\), dome, minerete and the city Lucknow which was a stronghold of Shia faith called the author’s attention.

The learned author has taken pains to give a clear and coherent account of the land of Iran under the rule of Nasirud Din Shah with reference to many aspects of the life of people and activities of the high

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\(^3\) This is traversed by a stone causeway and swarms with a variety of waterfowl. Its name signifies the Amir’s Dyke

\(^4\) Historical, worshiping and permanent meeting place for Shia. Appearing a new moon people assemble here Bara Imam Baran in Lucknow built by Asifud Dauleh in 1784.

\(^5\) Here people gathered and Government business is carried out. It is a court house or an office assisted those who vest power and authority.
official in the progress and prosperity of the common people. He gives an interesting account of the Kadkhuda who supplies for the author abundant information of the corruption, injustice and disorder at the hands of Governor, Kalantar (headman) and Yuzbashi (deputy). They were responsible for the pitiless condition of the people at one hand and deserved the compliments for the maintenance of the dome, shrine and qanat on the other hand. The author also paid heed to show the Governor’s attention to the wretched condition of the people and society which suffered greatly with the famine incidence. The fine arts including dance, music, song and painting have been given their due share in the accounts.

Persian art has such an attraction that it fascinated those whoever come here from outside. No aspect of Iranian civilization has proved so influential or is better known than Iranian art. Edward Stack impressed greatly by observing the stucco a kind of wall plaster in which photos and mirror in a floral design were framed. Iranian was expert in making this type of plaster which was hard but smooth as marble.

With all the valuable information and interesting detail nowhere is any idea of Nauroz and Muta’ which has been dealt. Although at this ceremonial time the author was halted in a place called Kaura in course of going Lar from Firozabad. Almost all the important topics are very elaborately treated and in some places the information supplies is very scanty. E.G. authority in p.199.v.i and p.256.v.i about Akhtar and Farhang newspapers. The author should have given a few lines more on this topic. But the narrative contained particularly in chapter xiii.v.ii makes the work an instructive and delightful reading.

In chapter 1 of volume I, the author gives the reason of his travel with brief description of his travelling companion Sayyid Ali. Being an

6. Greatest Iranian festivity celebrated on first day of the first month (Farvardin) of the Solar year. This festival invented by Jamshed, fall about 21st March at the Vernal equinox, immediately after the month of fasting. At this time Iranian have thirteen days holiday.
acute observer he has supplied interesting information of white dust and tamarisk \(^7\) forest of Sindh. In course of his travel from Bareily to Bushire he gathered material on variety subject. The crops of Sibi plain, station of Ruk, Government Bungalows, store houses, Nari George have been described with great sagacity. Stack closely observed that in the month of January under cloudless heat there was no trace of water in the hill-side.

Edward Stack visited several seaward provinces, studied and wrote a considerable report about the places. For example apropos of a place Mekran he says,\(^{(4)}\) "One might fancy that these savages Mekran hills were peopled with evil spirit." Here he gives the description of some historical sites, cathedral with tower and conical structure of Gwadar with some historical background of this place. He imparts knowledge to his reader on Jashk a telegraph station which had been regarded best after Bushire. Thus he provides a detailed report on this place. The description of Kishm Island has a background of the alliance between Shah Abbas and East India Company. The short account of the winds Suhaulli and Shumal shows his knowledge into geography.

Though the book *Six Months in Persia* can be a study of retrospection, nonetheless, Stack's impression of Iran and Iranian are still valid and relevant even today. When he reached at Bushire and wanted to proceed to Shiraz his visit synchronized with the time of Haj when the Hajis were returning home from pilgrimage. Though he was a British, he had experience of the travel's difficulty usually faced by Haji during the pre and post Haj period. As a true observer he gives a vivid account of the place and problem during this period in chapter ii of volume i.

Stack shows the valour and courage of Iranian through a story. The description of the interview of Stack with the high profile personalities gives this travelogue a permanent value. This interview was purely

\(^7\) .small evergreen shrub with feathery branches, tiny leaves and small white or pink flower often planted near sea. The shoot from a tamarisk tree inserting into the ground quickly take root and eventually grow into trees themselves.
political nature. All important problem of that period related to the country past and future has been discussed into Persian.

Edward Stack was not an ordinary traveller, the places where he halted observed minutely. The book is undoubtedly a historical guide to the early cities of Iran. For example chapter iii is informative containing old information of tomb, street, shrine, dakhme and chaparkhane. In the ruin of Persepolis the throne of Jamshed challenges visitors wonder and admiration. Here also in some places the detail should have given in such a way as to make the treatment attractive. Persepolis is the most beautiful and impressive building in Iran. It is one of the most splendid architectural works of ancient Iran. The account of the tomb of Achaemanian emperors is well written. The inscription of the Achemenid king is useful. This work on the mausoleum of pre Islamic art should be read by those who are interested in the Iranian history and civilization. The tombs of the emperors, apadana, staircase, bull statue constitute a deeply interesting group of building. These are interesting existence still today as their ruin proclaim them as a wonder of the ancient world. The entire one chapter on Persepolis is the token of Stack’s precise observation of Persepolis. The description of hundred columns, crypt of the Achaemenian emperors, and hall of Darius and the inscription in praise of Nasi-ud Din Shah are informative.

The great merit of the travelogue lies in the fact that when the traveller does not find any architectural remnant or any worthwhile points he immediately pays his attention towards Iranian’s animal like duck, pigeon, and dog and not even this he also compares them with the

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8. Fourth king of Persèdanian, founder of Persepolis, inventor of solar year. At his time talismanic bowl was invented which became widely known as Jam-i- Jam (Goblet of Jamshed). This bowl served the purpose of television or transistor. By this Jam Kaikusraw, third king of Kiyani dynasty came to know that Bizhan, niece of Rustam is captive in a wall of Turan.

9. son of Hydaspes was one of the greatest kings of Achaemanian period (521-485 B.C.). He extended his great empire from the Ircus river in the east to the Nile in the west. Susa the old Elamite city under him became the metropolis of Iran. He pushed to completion the great canal from the Nile to Suez so that ship could sail from Egypt to Persia and India. He was the first who use money for trading instead of barter system.
animal of foreign country. For instance he compares the Iranian village dog with a shaggy and short nosed Scotch collie. The chapter iv is intended for those who desire to know the wretched condition of the social fabric of that time. The chapter covers the tyranny of Governor, Mushirul Mulk, Qavaam ul Mulk. From the way in which they gave the punishment to the common people, the author evinces their cruel nature.

Chapter v mainly covers the account of the oppressed and suffered people at the hand of the mayor of the town and other high officials. There is good description of Ilkhani fondness into English education, politics and his likeness towards Russia's power, its greatness and British influence in Iran. From the details of fire temple, winter and summer quarters of the tribal people the author furnishes some worthwhile historical points.

Six chapter of Stack’s travelogue provides reference and detailed analyses in Iranian servant, Afar tribe of Kashkai Turks, politics, historical incidence of the past like dul dul of Ali and the sign of its hoofs and condition of ruining society due to famine. This chapter also contains some material on Shah Nameh of Firdausi and Rustam which imparts knowledge on Iranian love in the art of versification and their command on horse riding and archery. The author throws a flood of light on the robbers and their peril amongst the society. There are many smallest details of an ordinary account which are one of the best qualities of this travelogue.

Edward Stack records a great deal of the Governor of Shiraz’s double standard, his character, his religious practice and his bigotry attitude in chapter vii. The account of an Iranian contains the description of Iranian’s inquisitive nature to know travellers belief in Shia and Sunni.

10. a silky coated sheepdog with a long ruff and long narrow head developed in Scotland.
11. white horse of Imam Husain, known in Karbala as duljanah. In the procession of Moharram, the replica of dul dul on which he rode along with the flags and taziya (replica of the tomb of Imam Husain) represent the symbolic presence of Imam Husain.
There is a pen picture of the interior decoration of Fath Ali Khan's house. (Governor of Shiraz). This chapter covers many irreligious jokes on heaven and hell. There is a great comment on the reason of having second wife in a foreign country. Special attention was devoted to the description on Saint Jesus. Here he draws a line of differentiate between the belief of Muslim and Christian relevant to the crucification of the simulacrum of saint Jesus.

At every step, as the readers proceed the new and strange description of his travel account surprises and arouses a kind of interest in them. Stack in his travelogue incorporated such accounts which are rarely found in other book of travel. Unlike any ordinary traveller he accumulated such information of the place which makes his work really readable. For example the description of truffles known as dunbal-i-zamin or earth boil is the result of his keenness of perception.

In chapter viii he has made an attempt to create an effect of misgovernment society where every common person was compelled to pass a miserable life with the unable petty officials. The story of a dragon who looked after the buried treasure make his note attractive. Many worthwhile points he has mentioned here which are very important from the historical and social point of view, such as the relation of Shah Ghaib with the Shah Chiragh of Shiraz, Saint Ali’s pulpit, belief of villagers on Hazrat Abbas and Aminul Momenin (commander of the faithful), rustic’s deny knowledge of prophet Mohammad(P.B.U.H) and so on. Besides there is the description on British’s religious practice, their matrimonial system and Iranian doctor and Iranian dress.

Chapter ix is a source of information of Iranian lines of telegraph, reason of abandon the project. The narrative contain in this chapter, viz amusing medicine, event and remark on Sayyid Ali make the reader overjoyed. He analyses that Iranian are very fond of learning English and French language. He found in them their likeness to adopt European civilization. Again his remark on Daulatabad (the abode of wealth) makes
him a true observant. There is a scanty note on Shaikh Obaidullah and Kurdish war.

The author in chapter x besides treating a variety of subjects, such as the Nihilist of Iran whom they called Babi, Persian news paper (Akhtar) manner and looks of the prince Governor whose attitude and manner somewhat became changed after the returning of his European tour. prediction of Shah Namatullah, commercial and mineral product, funeral system of Hindu, has also presented graphically the scenario of the mismanagement of the arsenal, famine and drought (1880) and the short account of General Goldsmid and the Perso-Baluch frontier mission in 1871. Here the author should have said much more than given a scrappy note. This is the result of his quick apprehension that he compares the garden of Kerman with Shiraz, which is full of gardens unlike Kerman.

The learned author has taken pain to accumulate interesting information of Iran. Iranian were intensely superstitious people. The author cites some effective examples to show Iranian faith on evil spirits and horrible creatures by the account of their countryman and their poet, who warns the traveller against the giant of desert that leads people astray by the mirage. The note on the story of a fountain having the traits of render copper into gold and name of the mules according to their attributes provide some interesting ingredient in this chapter.

The utility of the book is further enhanced by the realistic representation of the Iranian society in chapter xii. Governor's brother's poor knowledge in Government and politics, the wild behavior of his two unstrained dogs, railway, telegraph, worthy places of Yezd, such as dakhme, notorious robber's haunt, method of debt collection, interest of Yezd merchants into politics have been described here with shrewdness. The great merit of the author lies in the fact that he not only has good eye on the vices of high officials at the same time he analyzes their virtues. For example Zillus Sultan was kind hearted and this is borne cut by the fact that special attention was devoted to the poor at the time of
famine. He supported them in many ways. The following lines can clear the above statement, where author says, (5) "everyone with whom I spoke had something to say in praise of Zillus Sultan, the Prince Governor of Isfahan to whom yazd is subject. When last year scarcity threatened yazd, he sent 2000 Kharwars or ass loads (about 530 tons) of wheat on his own mules to yazd, to be stored as a first revenue we "feel", said some of the man I spoke with, "that if a famine should come upon us, the prince would not desert us, so we have confidence. He was suspended the revenue demand in the case of poorer cultivators."

First volume of *Six Months in Persia* contains the description of author's travel account from Bushire to Shirkuh carrying the duration from 13th February-12th May 1881. The last chapter of volume one that is the 13th chapters is replete with the account of architectural remains of Shirkuh, belief of the people of Babi religion, effect of the famine of 1869-70. The account of the dervish's command over the language of every sorts of animal, the name of the mule such as Sandal (light Chappal), Caprica (unreasoned change of mind), Ringlets (small lock of hair) and leader make the treatment attractive. From the description of their manner of attaching of any unusual habit of a foreigner to the religious practice he wants to show their superficial thought. For example Stack's method of cooking rice without oil and his reading newspaper while eating, associated to his religious practice by the Iranian.

This travelogue is an interesting book having some worthwhile observations. His immediate understanding on the utility of mulberry tree attests to his curiosity and botanical knowledge. He gives the information about the aforementioned tree which possessed medical virtue. This is sweet, white fruit and mostly used by women as a medicine when they fell ill in spring time in Iran. It is considered very wholesome as corrective and preventive of the maladies. The author relevant to this tree gives an amusing description of women ailment and the way of their remedy, which calls the reader's attention. Whatever he observed writes thus,(6) "The road was full of yazd women riding away from the city on mules and asses with servant male and female walking or riding after. My yazd ghulam undertook to explain
this female emigration. They are going to eat mulberries” , he said , Married women fall sick of mysterious ailment in the spring , and say to their husband, my dear , I know I shall never be better till I have gone into the country to eat mulberry. In such and such a village my mother’s sister in law’s son owns a garden and I am sure he will put me up for a few days, and the man is not her mother’s sister In law’s at all, but some young fellows he knows so the husband consents and at the end of a few weeks his wife comes back to him, looking fresh and cheerful, having recovered her good looks, which she was afraid of losing.”

In this connection it can be said he enhanced this work by his care for such local stories. The intention of author from this sort of account is to amuse his reader and by the way of his amazement he proved that he did not believe in this exotic matter.

Volume ii of the travelogue Six Months in Persia having present digression really attracts the readers. The important of this volume can better be noticed in the following lines, (7) “A comprehensive informal travel account. Slight signs of wear to cover; but a good to very good copy over all vol ii only.”

Chapter 1 under the review of volume ii deals with place, home, people, population and private life. The author has given a summary of Iranian history, society and culture under the reign of Nasirud Din Shah. The modern Iranian was no doubt passionate architect and accomplished story tellers. It also contains the sad story of Kavir 12 desert where all people of a caravan were expired due to the snow. The author ought to have said more regarding the Iranian interest into photography. There is useful information apropos of the British religious dogma relevant to the birth of Jesus Christ and Prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H).

Chapter ii treats of modern life of Isfahan, covering the description of the training to the new troops by Austrian soldier. The author’s remark on the regiments, their dress, weapons are noteworthy. This chapter is

12 Great salt desert in central Iran, located in a basin Southeast of Alburz mountain. It is approximately 240 miles(390Km) wide
knowledgeable as to the political position of Russia in the late of 19th century. The political conversation between Sayyid Ali and the Prince and later on between Sayyid Ali and Sari mud Daulat (home secretary) give an added importance to this chapter. This chapter shows a reasonable picture of Iranian’s hope of British help relevant to the erosion of growing Russian influence in Iran. Some details with the tinge of satire are found here on gossip and flattery trade of the courtiers all over the world. This chapter also contains many bitter facts related to the attitude of Zillus Sultan. The account of this Prince is very important from the historical point of view. From the interest of Bakhtiyar’s interest into European politics and into Englishmen he wants to show the western influence upon Iranian.

This chapter contains little material on Persian newspaper which can be fruitful for the researcher of Persian newspaper. For example Edward Stack’s short description on Farhang newspaper is important from the literary point of view. Had the learned author mentioned some information of the name of editor of the aforementioned newspaper it would have fruitful for the advanced study. His note on Iranian dessert reminds one that Iran which not only existed of the author time but is equally the same even today.

The author is successful in giving a suitable picture of his thought apropos of England in comparison of Russia which was the unwelcome guest of Iran in chapter iii. This chapter contains material mostly first hand on the political and social life of Iran. The description of the difference between two tribes Bakhtiyari and Turk mere out of their slow and fast descending movement from the hill proves his penetration. The account of the Bagh-e- Wahash (menagerie) founded by Shah Abbas and cockroach in black and green colour in huge size shows his zoological knowledge. As he had some skill in grass or botanical knowledge, gives the account of holly hocks (used as a cooling medicine and hair wash) and some sweet scented herbs. It must be admitted that such description will
surely be useful for the naturalist. Apart from this the narrative of love affair between a princess of Cashmere with a warrior makes it delightful reading. His choice of words may result in detailed analyses of the rivalry between Russia and Britain. As a British he is of the opinion that British conquers country with cleverness while Russian conquers country by killing or getting killed. This is a great political comment on Russia. His prediction of the division of Turkey among the European powers from the passage of time proved correct. There is a detailed note on the Bakhtiari who was the enemy of Kashkai and Turkey. The observation of the author is very sharp and enables a general reader to peep into Iranian political life.

In some places the short accounts seem to be very informative as it reminds one the culture of Iran. Viz. the author has referred to the method of eating without the support of knife and fork. The note on the table manner no doubt reveals their food habit. The account of his own opinion apropos of the political situation of the 19th century’s Iran in chapter iii are well written. In this connection the political view of the vice Chief and Bakhtiari about Russia, England, India and Iran is enough to show their position under the period it deals with. Due to the great hostility between Russia and England as well as Russia and Afghan, he gives a great deal of information about the political situation of Iran. From the character of Ilkhani’s son the author shows a modern man. By this account Stack gives an idea that Ilkhani are not prejudiced although they show unreasonably their religious enthusiasm.

Chapter iv is intended for those who is interested to know the irrigation and drainage system of various rivers, brooks, springs into Persian Gulf. Stack was very fond of useful and practical observation. In describing a conversation between Sayyid Ali and *kadkhuda* he mostly concerned with the power and supremacy of Britain in India. He occasionally fills his pages with historical details. The account of Afghan who occupied Isfahan in 1722 contains useful information of all the
villages of Isfahan whose name ends with the word *aan*. Such account should be read by those who are interested in the history of Iranian village and city.

In the delineation of the society of this nation and the presentation of its culture, the account of his travel is a better achievement. He was keen and accurate in his observation. Concerning the wedding system where without money the concept of marriage is possible. Only money could motivate one to marry. In this connection the story which he cites gives ample reference to this system. In this connection it can be said unlike Elizabethan travellers who carried a quantity of superstitions, fabulous lore and old wives' tale with them to their home, (excluded Chardin and Herbert) Stack discovered the truth and understood their custom.

Some of the accounts in the travelogue are based on the contrast between Iranian and English's culture which give occasion for many amusing incidents. Most of these are light hearted enough, yet the travelogue has its more serious aspects. His precise note on the people who were compelled to live on herb made bread and almond shell is enough to show their evil condition. Again his comment on the war between Russia and Britain whom he entitled as dog and fish shows the increasing power and position of Russia in Iran.

The reference to the destruction of 333 villages by Afghan and putting out both the eyes of Afrasiab with the help of arrow shaped branch of tamarisk tree give the exact idea of Afghan's power and Rustam's valour.

In a little compass one can get Stack's interest into Indian and their society. Here the bullock-cart reference gives the reader an occasion to peep into slow means transport of earlier India. The description of Qajar

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13. son of Hushang, deadly foe of Rustam is actually responsible for the fight between father (Rustam) and son (Sohrab).
rulers' less attention towards public work and note on the British Telegraph Office and Muslim mummies (stone studded grave yard) add the historical importance of this work.

The author was unusually keen to learn about Iranian nature. He noticed here oy and large people were friendly enough but few of them were somewhat biased to their attitude. These are the matter contained in chapter v.

Some lucid description of Indian Muslim, munshi, Bangalee Baboo and Anglo Indian Magistrate have been found in chapter vi. So far the costume in form of lungi is concerned here it is valid even today. The utility of this chapter is further enhanced by the description of the art and architecture of Qachar period and this is borne out by the fact that special attention was devoted to the establishment of sursure or slide of white marble in the underground chamber of Nigaristan (picture gallery). There is interesting note of its use by Fath Ali Shah with his wives in summer season. There is also praise worthy note on the tile and wood work and portrait, painting of that period. The comparison of Nasirud Din Shah with Anglo Indian Magistrate and precise observation of the ruing state of the capital during the ten years after the Shah's visit is enough to show the Shah incapability of not doing well for the improvement of capital. The author is eminently successful in giving the account of Amir of Afghanistan and General Robert. The portrait of the Amir, his Persian verbal ability, the account of his confinement for two years and his visit to Candahar, Iran and Mecca greatly dealt by Stack. There is very informative ncte on Afghan war, Cabul occupation, Austrian and Russian officer. Besides, the account of Stack's interview with the foreign minister into Persian language is the repository of information of economical condition of India.

In course of giving description of fishing ground the reference to the Cloud in 'the East by Colonel Baker celebrated for the trout fishing, shows his knowledge in this field. The narrative consists of painful
symptom while climbing in Alpine highest sublime makes his note instructive and especially his own experience of ascending the hill, gives the knowledge to other climbers.

Chapter viii contains useful information of the tablet sculptured of Nasirud Din Shah which is correct from the critical point of view, as, Curzon in his work details the same observation. The boarders of the sculpture contain valuable material on the cause of establishing the road which is not only important from the historical point of view but also it supplies the model of the language of that time. It is one of the most splendid works by the European engineer of the Qacharid period.

Stack did not gather information blindly on the basis of visit the land or hearing by the people rather after scrutiny he reaches on the conclusion. For example when the people of a village told about a mosque that Imam Husain is said to have read here prayers he found it wrong. Similarly about the grave yards of the four saints without the tomb stone he did not succeeded to find out their name. He found only two name of the saints and gives the description only two of them. In this way he did not misguide the reader.

In chapter ix in course of the description of the Governor’s account of travel with Shah the author should have said something relevant to London and Paris. Their like and dislike how they found the European country, except a scrappy note in praise of England by the Shah. Here is a very informative description of the Nafta spring or the oil spring on which Baku entirely depends. The author suggests the people in order to transport the oil in form of solid they must follow American plan. In that way they can make it lucrative trade. But there was transport problem which hindered the development of this trade. At that time a need was felt to open the Tiflis and Baku railway which to be opened in

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14. In 12th century A.D. it was under the possession of the Shirvan Shah. It came under the sway of Mongol in 13th and 14th century. In 1723 Peter I captured it but it was returned to Iran in 1735. Finally Russia captured it in 1806. Now it is the capital and large city of Azarbajian close to the major petroleum field near the border with Iran
1881 purposely. But it remained incomplete due to some unavoidable reasons. The author should give a true reference to the cause of its incompleteness. But there is a fine description of the effect of its re-compilation.

In course of the account of Baku the learned author throws a flood of light on the historical background of this place. He also gives the reference to the Baku’s newspaper Bakinskia Izvestia. There is a clear description of the people in relation to their economic activity and their architectural decay on the pretence of the smoke of oil factory. In this connection the description of Tehran’s Gorodok or Black town is informative. In London there was also a place badly affected by the smoke of factory. Nasirud Din Shah while his visit to London details his experience in the following lines,

("The wall and gate of the Manchester city is black like coal due to the numerous factories. Even the facial complexion and apparel of the people is black.")

Chapter x is entirely devoted to the rectification of the map which published by the Surveyor General of India in 1876. Edward Stack gives a great deal of information of the exact distance of the land roads and mountainous road. As he had a great amount of topographical information sharply pointed out the mistakes in the map. The rectified map contains such information of which the aforementioned map is devoid. This chapter having exact information of route, river, and village and so on serve a useful purpose in imparting fresh information of the route and map of Iran. This sort of account details his experience on route and offers an excellent idea of Iran at his time.

The most important chapter of the book on anvil is chapter ii on land revenue system of Iran. The author with his experience of administration deals with the subject in great detail. He explains that
according to ownership there are two classes of land in Iran namely *diwani* (state) and *arbabi* (private) and according to the circumstances again there are two kinds of land namely wet land (*fayab*) belongs to private and dry and (*bakhsh or demi*) belongs to state.

The xii chapter of this volume is based on the knowledgeable note relevant to the poor condition and need of Iran. Stack throws a flood of light on their problems and suggests way and means of their solution. For example drought which has had some bad effect in keeping down the population of Iran could be prevented by the storage of water. The condition of the country could be improved by the proper use of the hidden treasures of the mountain and lands and irrigation problem would be solved from the water of enormous brooks, streams and the large rivers. Stack’s prediction of turning the stony plain into the fertile one and producing the wheat like the best parts of India, with little effort and attention, proved right from the passage of time. As Adam Rev Isaac opines in the following lines, (9) “The cultivated parts of Persia are rich and productive when irrigated it is only necessary to tickle the soil with a hoe and it will laugh into harvest. Its wheat has been pronounced the best in the markets of the world.”

The author truly epitomizes the better condition of Persian’s peasants than Indian peasants which is the result of his minutely observation. Here the description of the concession to Baron Reuter, military power, their financial and political position and various reforms which introduced in Iran are well written.

Chapter xi i is the repository of the author’s tips and instructions on travel in Iran. He elaborately discussed the objects which the traveller ought to take with him. There is some hints towards evening, night, casual and occasional outfit, bedding, cooking apparatus and provisions, based on his personal experience. Having some medical knowledge he advises the traveller to take with them some medicines having the quality of quick relief so that they could help them in any crucial moment.
Chapter xiii attracts those travels who have some interest into sports as it contains the material relevant to the mountain of Iran which provides the opportunity of shooting of the different animals like hare, partridge, wild goat and sheep.

In the aforementioned travelogue abundant attractive and interesting information is given in form of discussions and conversation. Few of which may seem superfluous to the fairly educated as it is repeated. For instance the execrable condition of the society is repeated numerous times. But it is quiet appropriate for the average reader.

It can be concluded that the minuteness of Stack's description, his command of language, his sense of humour and his keen insight into the physical features of the country, qualify his travelogue to be ranked one of the best accounts of travel written about Iran. Thus it can be said in reading the travelogue *Six Months in Persia* one is pleased with the swiftness of his style, the economy of words, his imitation of Persian style. And above all the occasional narration of poetry is highly successful. His precise observation of the smallest details of custom, culture and history is enough to convince that he knows everything about Iran.

In short after a critical scrutiny it can be said that *Six Month in Persia* is particularly very important as it contains the useful information mostly firsthand on the religious, political and social life of the people of Iran.
References of Chapter IV

1. The Mikirs, edit, re arrange and supplement: Sir Charles Lyall, p.vii, London, 1908
5. Ibid, p.267-8. v.i
6. Ibid, p. 295. v.i
8. Safarnama -iy- Shah-e- Iran, Nasirud Din Shah, p.76, Tehran, no date