



**Remains of lost empires; sketches of the ruins of  
Palmyra, Nineveh, Babylon, and Persepolis, with  
some notes on India and the Cashmerian  
Himalayas**

*Philip Van Ness Myers*

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1875 edition. Excerpt: ...by a thousand arteries, and constituted the richest province of the Persian Empire. "Parks and pleasure-grounds, palaces and hunting-seats of Sassanian monarchs and the nobles of the land, served to diversify the glorious scene, whose beauty was further enhanced by the splendid armies of the Persians that went forth to combat the legions of Rome." But the wild hordes of the False Prophet came and established themselves in the palace of the Persian kings. Under the first caliphs this marvelously fertile district returned an immense revenue. As late as A.D. 822 it was still in a prosperous state; but with the decay of the power of the caliphs the canals fell into neglect. About the year 850 there occurred a fearful inundation of the Tigris, caused probably by an earthquake, and the river found a new channel for itself to the east of the old bed, and cut the canal, which lent its water to aid in the complete devastation of the country. Thus a region abounding in paradises, supportitag such cities as Samarah, Opis, and Ctesiphon, was transformed into a waste; and though skill and energy might have restored the broken works, these virtues had become strangers to the feeble successors of the first caliphs, and this once paradisaical region was given over to neglect and desolation. To-day it is, throughout almost its entire extent, little better than a howling desert. Shortly after twilight we dropped anchor, as the sky was overcast with clouds, and the darkness too thick to allow us to follow with safety the sinuosities of the river. Early the next morning we were again under way. Low banks, just one or two feet above the river; wide plains, covered sparsely with bushes, and in places white and yellow and purple with flowers; numerous black...

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