

panic, and the frenzy would, first of all, vent itself on Englishmen. Therefore, it was evidently necessary that a large quantity of provisions must be stored in the Consulate, and even this might be a temptation during famine.

Under normal circumstances the small double town has 7000 inhabitants, 2500 dwelling in Nasretabad and 4500 in Husseinabad. In these two closely-packed, insanitary, poor, and dirty communities, the Angel of Death had now established his headquarters. The day before my arrival 35 cases had been reported, 10 of which resulted in death. On April 10 there were eleven deaths; on the 13th, 13; on the 14th, 15; and the plague seemed to be making progress. The reports were, of course, not made up till the following day. On April 17, 8 deaths were reported after eleven o'clock on the same day. But the natives themselves hardly ever reported the deaths of their relations and friends. In the English Consulate information was obtained by means of spies and from merchants from India. The burial-grounds were also watched, but this means was little reliable, for the natives, expressly to conceal deaths, buried the corpses anywhere, and the interments were generally carried out at night. Englishmen, therefore, took it for granted that the actual numbers of deaths were much larger than reported. At any rate they were excessive for so small a town, and, besides, large numbers of people had emigrated. In Husseinabad it was estimated that only about 2000 inhabitants were left. Nasretabad was practically evacuated, only 100 inhabitants, mostly soldiers and beggars, remaining. The town was without administration, all the shops and bazaars were closed, and the streets were empty and deserted.

Husseinabad presents a conglomeration of cupolas and walls, square houses and windmills, all grey and colourless, seldom relieved by a little verdure, some poor garden with mulberry and apple trees well sheltered by walls from the strong summer wind.

Nasretabad is of a quadrilateral form, somewhat longer from north to south than from east to west. It is surrounded by a mud wall and a moat filled with water.