

his fate. By the return of one of his attendants (Abdullah) to Peshawr, *viâ* Bokhara and Cabul, as well as by a letter of another of them, Mahomed Amir, addressed to Colonel Edwardes, it appears that Adolphe Schlagintweit was well received at Yarkand, though he encountered great difficulties in reaching that city. On moving to the north-west, or towards Kokan, he fell in with a horde of fanatic Mussulmans, at Kashgar (which lies in about 41° N. lat. and 72½° E. long.), and in front of the walls of which place he was beheaded by orders of a ferocious Synd named Wulli Khan. After giving a sketch of the details, the President observed that, as great interest has been taken by all the British authorities in Upper India in the fate of this enterprising explorer—probably the only scientific European who has ever visited this wild and remote region since the days of Marco Polo—so it is hoped that some of his note-books and observations may eventually be recovered from the natives.

The Papers read were :—

1. CAPTAIN H. STRACHEY (Gold Medallist) *on the Death of M. Adolphe Schlagintweit.*

Communicated by the Right Hon. Lord STANLEY, M.P., F.R.G.S., Secretary for India.

*Extract of a Military Letter from India, dated 26th January, 1859.*

IN continuation of our separate letter, dated 22nd Dec., 1858, we have the honour to submit a farther communication received from the Foreign Department regarding the fate of the late Adolphe Schlagintweit, who, it now appears, was barbarously murdered at Kashgar by a fanatic Synd, named Wulli Khan.

*From Lieutenant-Colonel H. B. EDWARDES, C.B., Commissioner and Superintendent at Peshawr Division, to R. TEMPLE, Esq., Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of the Punjab Political Department.*

SIR,—I am not aware whether the Chief Commissioner has yet received a reliable account of the circumstances attending the death of M. Adolphe Schlagintweit; but at any rate it will be satisfactory to Government and to his friends to be able to compare the enclosed narratives of the sad event. No. 1 is the verbal statement of a Cashmir follower of M. Schlagintweit, named Abdullah, who arrived here *viâ* Bokhara and Cabul three days ago. No. 2 is the written report of a native of Ladak, named Mahomed Amir, who appears to have been provided by Lord William Hay as a kind of courier to M. Schlagintweit. He writes from Kokan, and Ab-

dullah is the bearer of his letter. From these statements, which appeared to me substantially trustful, it seems that M. Schlagintweit was impelled by a desire to find a road to Yarkand which need not pass through Ladak; that he reached Yarkand—found that country harried by Crescentaders (*sic*) from Kokan, and passed on to Kashgar, where the same fanatical raids were going on; and the leader of one of them, a Synd, named Wulli Khan, seized M. Schlagintweit, and barbarously caused him to be beheaded, without any other offence apparently than that of being a foreigner. If anything could soothe the distress of M. Schlagintweit's friends in Europe, it would surely be the noble contrast between the enlightened purpose and humane search for knowledge which bore him into those wilds with his life in his open hand, and the barbarian's frenzy for the propagation of error by the blood of his fellow men. I have sent by separate parcel a slip of paper and a broken pocket-telescope, which were the only relics Abdullah could bring away with him.

I have, &c.,

Peshawar, Dec. 1858.

HERBERT B. EDWARDES.

The statement of Abdullah Mahomed, an attendant of M. Adolphe Schlagintweit, is to the following effect:—

. . . He then, with the informant and four others, resumed his journey, and, at a distance of three days' journey from Yarkand, turned towards Sokut, and thence to Shumla Khoja. From this place he sent a servant to Yarkand to obtain information of the wars that were then going on, and learnt on his return that it was the Khan of Kokan who had been the aggressor, consequently he set out for Yarkand without hesitation. Passing Kirgan and Kuigluk, he arrived at the camp of one Tilla Khan, Synd of Kokan, who had come with an armed multitude to make a religious war with Yarkand. A sortie was made from the city against Tilla Khan, and obliged him to fly. M. Schlagintweit left his baggage, and fled with his followers to Kashgar. Here he found that another Synd of Kokan, called Wulli Khan, was then the king. He had himself just come on a religious war, and had conquered the place. M. Schlagintweit desired an interview with him, but he was refused, and was carried as a prisoner to the Khan, who, without any questioning or any apparent reason, ordered him to be beheaded. The execution took place immediately, outside the city of Kashgar. The informant was sold as a slave, but after various difficulties contrived to reach India.

Mahomed Amir of Yarkand, one of the above-mentioned four

attendants, describes how the messenger was sent to Yarkand, and how, contrary to his own advice, M. Schlagintweit determined on going there. He says that on their approach to Yarkand they were treated with courtesy, receiving and giving presents. Thence they went to Kashgar, which was occupied by a Khojah of Kokan, who had installed himself in the city with his Mussulman troops; but the army of Khutta was in the field, besieging him, and every day there was a fight. The Khojah's people "asked who we were? M. Schlagintweit replied, that he was the Hon. East India Company's envoy, and was going to the Khan of Kokan; upon this they got into a rage, and ordered M. Schlagintweit to be beheaded, and I, with my followers, to be thrown into prison, and plundered of all our property." After thirty-five days the army of Khutta overpowered the Khojah and forced him to fly, and the informant was released.

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The Second Paper read was:—

2. *On a New Projection of the Sphere.*

By Sir J. F. W. HERSCHEL, Bart., D.C.L., F.R.S., &c.

MY DEAR SIR RODERICK,—As President of the Royal Geographical Society, the Paper which I herewith send, may interest you. It contains an account of a projection of the sphere, so far as I am aware new, which offers several peculiar advantages for geographical purposes when the whole, or at least the whole accessible part of the globe has to be mapped down on one sheet. For, 1st, it gets rid of the extravagant distension in high latitudes, at least on one side of the equator, which the Mercator projection necessitates. 2nd. Like that and the stereographic projection, it exhibits all small portions of the sphere in their true forms without *distortion* of figure. 3rd. It exhibits large portions (as whole continents) with very much less variation of scale where great amplitudes are concerned than the stereographic, and for the whole of one hemisphere than the Mercator; while for the other, as far as the 50th deg. of latitude, it is no way offensive. 4th. It takes in at one view the whole accessible surface; and, what no other circular projection can do, it allows on one and the same plate a repetition of the map, or of any portion of it continuously right and left; so that, take what meridian you will for a prime meridian, it will, by merely placing that meridian upright before the spectator, give an equally convenient and natural *coup-d'œil* of at least 90°, or if it be preferred