

southern Abyssinia and the neighbouring Galla country. He has explored the river Didessa, which he identifies with the Juba, and has visited the Lakes Betsho and Zuai, and the previously unknown Lake Miete situated in the country of the Arusi Gallas, about 40 miles distant from Lake Zuai. A war between Godjam and Shoa compelled him to quit the country before the termination of his surveys, and he returned to Massaua in July last.

Colonel Prejevalsky's New Expedition.—In a letter to our correspondent, Mr. Delmar Morgan, Colonel Prejevalsky announced his intention of starting on his third great expedition to the heart of Asia early in August. He will proceed first to Kiachta, and his object is to explore the whole of Northern and part of Eastern Tibet from the sources of the Hoang-ho to the Pamir, diverging south, if possible, to the Upper Brahmaputra. He intends again to visit Lob Nor, this time from the Tsaidam side. Experience having proved the impossibility of travelling with camels on the high Tibetan plateau, he will form depôts of provisions along the northern foot of the Kuen-lun and from these points enter Tibet in light marching order. The probable localities fixed upon for these stores are Irgizyk in Eastern Tsaidam, Lake Gast in Western Tsaidam, Lob Nor, and the town of Keria. In this way the expedition will gradually advance from east to west along the Kuen-lun. The traveller will be accompanied by his former assistants Eklon and Robarofsky, besides a young officer named Kozlof; and he takes with him his former interpreter, a native of Kuldja, and sixteen Cossacks and soldiers as escort. Eklon with six Cossacks will remain at the depôts. The scientific equipment and arms of the party will be most complete. The expedition is expected to leave Urga at the beginning of October, travelling *viâ* Alashan, Koko-nor, and Tsaidam, and thence by the sources of the Yellow River to Tibet.

An Expedition to Chitral.—According to letters from India, Mr. McNair of the Indian Survey Department has succeeded in penetrating to Chitral, which has now been entered, for the first time, by a European explorer. The story of his adventure, as told in the *Civil and Military Gazette* of Lahore, is somewhat curious. It seems that trans-frontier news-agents, in their reports, mentioned that a *Feringhi*, disguised as a Mahomedan, had crossed the north-west frontier, and had made his way through the Swat valley to Dir, where he was kindly received by Rahmatulla Khah of Dir, a chief who is well known to frontier officers for his persistent rivalry with the younger Mian Gul, the son of the famous Akhoond of Swat. Disguised *Feringhis* figure not infrequently in reports from beyond the frontier, and, as often as not, turn out to be quite mythical. This time it was a real *Feringhi*, and no other than Mr. McNair, of the Indian Survey Department. Mr. McNair had undertaken this expedition entirely on his own responsibility, going "on

leave" for the purpose. The Indian Government, according to its accustomed policy, would have refused to sanction the enterprise; so Mr. McNair's disguise was assumed to deceive the vigilance of our frontier officials, as well as to secure his safety in the inhospitable regions which he hoped to traverse. He was accompanied by a native explorer, known "in the profession" as the Saiad. The Saiad has already done good work in the Survey Department, and is one of Major Holdich's best men. Shortly after crossing the frontier, Mr. McNair's disguise was unfortunately detected. He succeeded, however, in reaching Chitral; and in a letter written from that place—the latest received in India up to the end of June—he expressed his intention of going on to Gilgit. A native report reached India that the traveller had actually arrived in Gilgit; but a telegram (of June 29) from Sir Oliver St. John, the British Resident in Kashmir, showed that this was a mistake. The journey from Chitral to Gilgit would be somewhat perilous. There has lately been fighting in those parts. Yassin, on the direct route between Chitral and Gilgit, is in the hands of the Khan of Tangir, a brother of the man who murdered the unfortunate Hayward. It is possible, however, that Mr. McNair may not take the direct route; and he may have had reasons of his own for not disclosing, in his letter from Chitral, his real plans. As likely as not, he will not leave Chitral without making a determined attempt to get into Kafiristan, and he may thence try to work his way round by the head-waters of the Oxus. This would be the safer route, and would give the best results, especially if Mr. McNair is able to reassume his disguise. As it is, Mr. McNair's adventure should win him no little renown in geographical circles, in Europe as well as in India. He is the first English traveller who has succeeded in penetrating to Chitral, and being an able geographer and trained observer, his report will be of considerable value.

Hannibal's Route across the Alps.—In the current number of the *Alpine Journal*, Mr. Douglas Freshfield discusses the well-worn subject of the Pass of Hannibal. He points out that of late historians and critics, both in England and Germany, have taken up a position directly opposed to that of most recent geographers and travellers, e. g. Mr. J. Ball, Mr. Bunbury, and Professor Bonney. While the latter discard the little St. Bernard, it has been put forward by the historians with singular confidence as the unquestionable Pass of Hannibal. Against this assumption Mr. Freshfield protests, on the ground that the distance from the pass to the plain is double that required by the narratives of Polybius and Livy, and also because a majority of the statements made in support of this Pass prove, when closely examined, to be inaccurate. Mr. Freshfield's own argument is briefly as follows:—If we trust Polybius alone, the Pass of Hannibal must be left an open question as between the Mont Cenis, the Mont Genève, and the Col de l'Argentière; if we take Livy into account, we are confined to the road up the Drac to Gap, and the