

proceed from Zanzibar, while Dr. Oscar Lenz will make for the same region by way of the Congo. A brother of Dr. Junker has offered to contribute a large part of the expense of Dr. Fischer's expedition, one object of which will be to find out and succour the Russian explorer, as well as Lupton Bey and Emin Bey.

Morocco.—M. Henri Duveyrier has been intrusted by the French Government with a mission to carry out various studies in the physical and political geography of Morocco.

Surveys in Algeria and Tunis.—A few weeks since, under the name of "Brigades Topographiques," sixteen companies of officers and men left Marseilles for the purpose of carrying out topographical work in Algeria and Tunis; fourteen for the former and two for the latter. The work was to begin in the south of the three Algerian provinces.

M. Grandidier on the Geography of Madagascar.—At the meeting of March 16th, of the Paris Academy of Sciences, M. Alfred Grandidier read a short note on the geography of Madagascar. He referred especially to the heights which form the water-parting and divide the island into two basins of very unequal extent; the one sloping towards the Indian Ocean, the other towards the west. M. Grandidier referred especially to the former, describing summarily the character of the streams, which are generally blocked by sand at their embouchures, traversing the marshes by narrow channels, or rather flowing parallel to the coast and forming lakes, many of which are badly indicated or altogether omitted by geographers. M. Grandidier announced the early publication of a map which will contain the result of his long researches.

M. Ivanof on the Pamir.—In addition to the account of M. Ivanof's explorations, of which we published a translation in the 'Proceedings' last year (1884, p. 135), this traveller has supplied in a recent number of the St. Petersburg *Izvestiya* further particulars on the topography, drainage, and mountains of the Pamir. The chief conclusions he arrives at, after a comprehensive study of the subject, are as follows:—The name "Pamir" applies generally to the whole region lying at the sources of the Amu-daria. It does not apply to distinct portions of it, such as Great and Little Alichur, Khargoshi, and Serez [Sares] * Pamirs. These localities are known to the inhabitants by one name only, unaccompanied by the word "Pamir." The Pamir is, according to all the best authorities, and the natives themselves, a plateau so lofty that nothing but grass will grow there, a region where neither corn nor trees will flourish, and where the only inhabitants are the argali or wild mountain sheep, the yak, and some poor Kirghiz. The word "Pamir" is derived from *bam*, roof, forming, with the Persian terminal *i*, or perhaps the Kirghiz *ir*—i. e. "place," "earth,"—Pamir,

* Cf. Col. Yule's introduction to Wood's 'Oxus,' p. lxxxiv.

Pamilo. The Pamir extends in the shape of a horseshoe from north to south, i. e. from the Taldyk Pass in the Alai range to the Almayan (the upper Vakhán-daria) north of the Hindu Kush, 200 miles; from east to west, i. e. from the Kashgarian Tash-kurgan on the east, to Sardym in Shighnan on the west, about 170 miles. Within these limits, comprising an area of 67,000 square versts, the Pamir has been crossed in all directions, and surveyed on the scale of 5 versts to the inch, with the assistance of eleven positions astronomically determined. Its eastern boundary is clearly defined by the Kashgarian mountains, from which the descent is sudden to the plain below. On the north and south its limits are also well marked by the Alai and Hindu Kush ranges respectively. On the west, however, there is no such natural boundary. Here, therefore, M. Ivanof suggests adopting a line to pass through the first cultivated ground in nearly a meridional direction from Kala-i-Pandj, the westernmost point of Wakhan, through Sardym Charpan on the Khund, Sarez, Tash-kurgan on the Murghab, and Altyn mazar on the Muk-su, touching the Alai at Daraut-kurgan. Immediately to the west of such a line would lie a belt of mountainous country differing widely in all its characteristics from the grass-covered plains of the Pamir proper. With reference to the much-disputed question of a meridional Bolor range, it may be remarked that the name as applied to a distinct chain, uniting the Hindu Kush and Thian-Shan, has long since been abandoned. Geologists then applied it to the meridional upheaval of the tableland on the high authority of Baron von Richthofen and the late Professor Sévertsof, the latter of whom saw sufficient evidence to substantiate this theory. M. Ivanof's observations lead him to a contrary opinion; whilst on the other hand he confirms entirely M. Sévertsof's views on the phenomena of a glacial epoch on the Pamir, of which he found unmistakable proofs.

Port Hamilton.—The recent annexation by England in the Korean waters is not on the island of Quelpaert, but 38 miles N.N.E. of it. From the character of its coast Quelpaert would have been quite unsuited to the purpose for which an English station was wanted in these seas. Port Hamilton is completely sheltered by three islands, the largest of which is Sodo, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, one mile broad, and 650 feet elevation at the highest point. The second, Sunhodo, is about half the size of Sodo and has an elevation of 783 feet. These two islands are deeply indented, their northern points nearly meeting; and the third and smaller island (Observatory Island) is situated between the south-eastern points, forming a spacious and well-sheltered harbour, about two miles long, and more than one broad, with a depth of from 9 to 12 fathoms. There is a population of 2000 souls on the island, who are entirely devoted to the cultivation of millet. Port Hamilton is 365 miles north-east of Shanghai, and 25 miles south of the Korean mainland.

Disafforestation of Russia.—In an original communication from