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to the young explorers! I cannot say why, but ever since the first day we met in May 1888, when I was on my way through London to the crossing of Greenland, we have been friends for life. I cannot possibly say how much I owe to him. I always had his implicit confidence in my plans and undertakings, however much they may have been attacked by others, and his encouragement, advice, and untiring support were always a wonderful stimulus and help. And so I know it was with other travellers. His influence upon what has been done of geographical work during his years is difficult to measure, but it was important. He was a man in whom there was no deceit, a true son of Scotland, a noble man, and a true friend.

From the many other letters addressed to the Society we may extract this excellent phrase of Dr. Isaiah Bowman: "He was to a high degree an Institution in himself." To all those who have written the President and Council have expressed their cordial appreciation.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### The Mishmi Country

I WAS much interested in Mr. D'Arcy Weatherbe's brief account of his and Mr. Stevenson's journey from Burma to Assam *via* the Krongjong Pass, which I have just read in the *Geographical Journal* for July. May I, however, correct a wrong impression which the reader can hardly avoid?

Mr. Weatherbe says: ". . . but we had no trouble whatever with the Mishmis, and found them quite a manly and certainly a reasonably friendly and hospitable people, *previous and contrary reports notwithstanding*" (italics mine).

I think that if Mr. Weatherbe had travelled in the Lohit Valley, say in 1906 (or even considerably later than that) instead of in 1926, he himself would have made a "contrary report."

It is unnecessary to go into all the attempts to blaze a trail through the Mishmi Hills, either from Sadiya to Rima or in the reverse direction, until we come to the period 1911-1914, with Major F. M. Bailey's journey from Batang *via* Rima to Sadiya in the former year, and Mr. T. P. M. O'Callaghan's journey from Sadiya to Rima in the latter year.

Major Bailey, most resourceful of travellers, had great difficulty in getting through the Mishmi Hills below Rima in 1911.

Then followed the Political and Survey Missions of 1912-1914 up the Lohit Valley, and in 1914 the present Political Officer of the Sadiya Frontier Tract, and other officers, travelled up as far as Rima, being everywhere welcomed by the people.

It is due, first to the unremitting labours of a succession of Political Officers at Sadiya, particularly to the late Mr. Needham and to Mr. Dundas; secondly to the missions of 1912-1914, and to the administration of the present Political Officer, who has won the entire confidence of the frontier tribes, that the Digaru Mishmis are now a "reasonably friendly and hospitable people." A period of contact with frontier and other British officers has sufficed to bring to the surface, through a natural veneer of suspicion, the underlying human qualities which exist in most of these tribes, however much they may be masked by circumstances.

I think Mr. Weatherbe is incorrect in saying that "the old Mishmi path which was supposed to exist up this river had become entirely obliterated."

It suggests that the path is no longer used. The path is used regularly in the winter months by Mishmis who cross the Krongjong to fish in the headwaters of the Mali Kha (Nam Yiu); occasionally they wander as far south as Fort Hertz. The difficulties encountered by Mr. Weatherbe were due mainly to the season and to an unusually wet spring in Hkamti Long; for the path on the Burma side follows the river-bed practically from the head of the Hkamti plain to the pass itself, and in the latter half of April, with the snow melting at those comparatively low altitudes (the Krongjong being under 10,000 feet), the river-bed would of course be pretty full.

Mr. Weatherbe's statement that "the Zayul Chu has not so very much more water in it than the Ghalum" is astonishing to any one who has seen both.

The Zayul Chu (Krawnaon) flows almost due south from Rima to Minzong, where it turns abruptly at right angles, receiving the quite small Ghalum from the east; and though it is true that from the Tidding (not Tiding) to Sadiya is nearly 100 miles by road, the distance in an air line is under 50 miles.

Mr. Weatherbe's journey is of considerable interest to those who study the North-East Frontier of India; he is quite right in claiming to be the first European to cross the Krongjong, though his route was known to Wilcox a century ago, and is mentioned by Griffith, and has of course been accurately mapped by Indian surveyors. But it is desirable that the account should be minutely accurate, so I hope he will forgive these few comments.

F. KINGDON WARD.

Sadiya, Assam, 12 December 1926.

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## MEETINGS: ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY: SESSION 1926-1927

**Sixth Evening Meeting, 24 January 1927.**—The President in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—George Edward Bearns; Herbert Edwin Bradley; John Dorr Bradley; Mrs. Mary Hastings Bradley; V. Edward Charawanamuttu, PH.B., A.C.P., F.C.I., M.A.A.S.; Major William Henry Saxon Davies, O.B.E.; Lieut. Edward Walter Fletcher, R.A.; Mrs. Elizabeth Fuller Goodspeed; Archibald Ernest Alfred Gostling; John Leggat; Miss Sylvia Sarah Linton; Miss Elsie Dorothea I. Murray; Capt. W. J. Norman; Fred Bury Osborne, M.A.; Brig.-Gen. Ernest Moncreiff Paul, C.B., C.B.E.; John R. Rymill; Robert R. Rymill; James Salter; Gwilym Emlyn Thomas, M.A.; Benjamin Walker, A.R.I.B.A.; Albert Whiteside.

PAPER: The Shaksgam Expedition. Major K. Mason.

**Seventh Evening Meeting, 7 February 1927.**—The President in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—Hubert Stewart Banner, B.A.; Arthur Barrett, J.P.; Miss Louie M. Brooks; Charles E. Glogau; Masauji Hachisuka; Harry Fitz-Gerald Harlock; Dr. Lee S. Huizenga; David Morgan Jenkins; Capt. Gerald Lowry; William McClymont; Percy W. May; Sir John Robert O'Connell, LL.D., M.A.; Percy White Stevens; Mrs. Diana D. Tahourdin; Alexander A. Thomson, B.Sc., A.R.S.M.

PAPER: The Didinga Mountains. Mr. J. H. Driberg.

**Fourth Afternoon Meeting, 14 February 1927.**—Sir Percy Cox, Vice-President, in the Chair.

PAPER: The Landfall of Columbus. Lieut.-Comm. R. T. Gould.