Official Reports

on

the last Journeys and the Death

of

Adolphe Schlagintweit

in Turkistán.

Collected

bу

Berlin, 2nd May 1859.

Hermann and Robert Schlagintweit.

(For private distribution only.)

(With an Appendix of a circular note, written before the receipt of the Rep. No. 9 and No. 10.)

Introduction.

In the following pages we propose to communicate, in a collected form, the various reports which have reached us relative to the last journeys and the melancholy fate of our beloved brother Adolphe Schlagintweit.

The information from India and Russia, collected from natives by European Officers of the adjoining districts, concur but too accurately in establishing the fact, that Adolphe Schlagintweit was killed at Káshgar in Turkistán (Central Asia) in August 1857, falling a victim to his scientific mission.

He was recognized as a European after having passed the Karakorúm and Küenlüen, in disguise, where before us no European had ever traveled; he had taken a route more westerly than ours and had succeeded in penetrating far into Central Asia.

The reports which have reached us are so various, that they do not of course all agree, as to the immediate cause and particulars of his death; yet it is evident from all of them, that the political condition of these countries, and the circumstance of the deceased's being recognized as an officer of the Indian Government, notwithstanding every precaution, essentially contributed to his tragic end. Even with the lively sympathy ever so energetically evinced by England, in the fate of Scientific Travelers, it will scarcely be possible to succeed in bringing the murderers of our brother to account.

According to some reports he perished in consequence of having taken up the cause of some captive Bhot-Rajpúts, British subjects, interceding for them, that they might not be executed or sold as slaves. Other accounts state the immediate cause of his death was, his having been recognized as a European, and fallen by the hand of fanatic Mussălmáns.

Notwithstanding our most zealous exertions for some months past, in endeavouring to obtain his manuscripts, drawings, etc. we have not yet been successful in learning anything de-

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finite about them: still however, many very important geographical communications have been made to us by his followers and we are not without hope that from the active sympathy which the Indian Government has always displayed in our Scientific Mission to India and High-Asia, nothing will remain untried that contend to the rescue of his last papers.

We owe the subjoined reports respecting the last fate of Adolphe to the kindness of the following gentlemen:

- I. Captain Henry Strachey, 66th Górkhas, of Almóra (Himálaya) who, in consequence of his scientific journeys in the Himálayas, and in western Tíbet, was in a position to select the persons on whose reports the most reliance could be placed and who also was particularly enabled, critically to elucidate these reports.
- II. G. Knox Esq. Assistant Commissioner of Kúlu (Himálaya) who in an unexpected manner found an opportunity of making inquiries of the Yarkandi Kattah-Ali-Shah at Nagger a place so distant from Yarkand.
- III. M. Vardouguine, Russian Consul at Chúguchak (Central Asia) whose report we have received through the kind offices of Baron Budberg at Berlin.

Notwithstanding the enormous distance, we have received these reports in a remarkably short time, through the active sympathy of Prince Gortschakoff.

IV. Lieutenant Col. Edwardes C.B., in whom Adolphe already, when at Peshaur, had found a warm friend, and who, making use of his important political position, has recently with the greatest energy and kindness made every exertion to obtain the latest definite information relative to our illfated brother.

In addition to the above, we had repeatedly received general accounts on Adolphe, with expressions of the most cordial sympathy, through the Indian Press, and private communications from the following Gentlemen:

The Rev. H. Jäschke, Missionary at Lahól (Himálaya),

- A. C. Gumpert Esq., Consul for Hamburg and Oldenburg at Bombay, and F. Schiller Esq., Austrian Consul at Calcutta,
- Lord Elphinstone, Lord W. Hay, Major Ramsay, the Hon. W. Elliot, Lord Bowring Esq., private Secretary to Lord Canning, W. Russel Esq., Correspondent of the "Times" during the Indian rebellion, and others.

Notices in their letters which were not included in the Official Reports, have been added either as notes, or in brackets, [], in the text. Our own observations upon the individual natives furnishing the reports, as well as remarks upon several geographical points, are also given in brackets.

We have further to acknowledge the important assistance we have received in collecting information respecting our deceased brother from Lord Stanley, Col. Sykes, and Sir Roderick Murchison, in England, and from our venerable and most kind friend Baron Humboldt*).



^{*)} Remarks on the transcription of Indian names:

Vowels and diphthongs as in Italian and German. $\check{}$ over a and e ($\check{}$ and $\check{}$) denote an imperfectly formed a and e as the English u in but, and e before r in herd. Diphthongs are meant to sound like the 2 component vowels combined. Consonants generally as in English; but h after a consonant, also after t is an aspiration except in sh which has its usual sound. — The ' marks the syllable to be accented.

I. Reports collected and communicated by Captain Henry Strachey.

1. Verbal Statement of the Native Doctor Harkishen*), Almóra August 1858.

Adolphe Schlagintweit crossed the Bára-Lácha Pass from Dárche in Lahól into Rúpchu of Ladák, i. e. from India to Tíbet on the 31st of May 1857 taking with him:

- 1. Mohammad Amín, Native of Yarkand, chief Guide,
- 2. Yahúdi, Guide to No. 1,
- 3. Mohámmad Hássan, of Pesháur, Múnshi,
- 4. Abdul, of Kashmir,
- 5. Ghost Mohámmad, of Muradabád, Domestic Servants etc.,
- 6. Múrli, of Bhágsu in Kángra,
 7. Máula Baksh, of Muradabád,
 Chaprássi's,
- and others.

The 1st of these, Mohammad Amin, was a person of questionable antecedents, nominally a merchant, trading between Yárkand and Leh but said also to have acted in the capacity of a gangrobber on the road between those places.

Being at Leh in 1856 he was arrested by the Dógra Thanadár Básti Ram for debt in the suit of sundry merchants, or for other reasons, and released on the application of Hermann and Robert Schlagintweit, who engaged him to act as guide for their journey towards Khótan in the summer of that year (the account of which is on record). [Vide the Report No. VIII of the Officers engaged in the Magnetic Survey of India, Agra, Secundra Orphan Press 1857.] On their return to India in the autumn he was discharged and remained at Leh, where he soon got into trouble again with the Dógra Government.

Some say that the Agents of the Chinese Government in Yarkand having heard of his bringing European travelers across their frontier (which is high treason in their Code) offered a reward of 1000 Rupis for his apprehension, and perhaps coerced some of the Kashmíri residents at Yárkand to work upon their friends in Ladák and Kashmír for the same object, which Guláb Singh and Basti Ram possibly also turned to a mercantile transaction.

However this may be Guláb Singh having ordered his arrest and threatened to hang him soon after the Schlagintweit's (H. and R.) departure, he fled from Ladák into Kúlu, where Adolphe S. found him, at Sultanpur, in April 1857.

There had possibly been some previous arrangement between them: Any way A. S. again entertained him as interpreter, guide, and baggage master for another journey into Turkistán.

As a specimen of his veracity, it may be mentioned that he informed Hărkishen that he was to have a monthly salary of 2000 Rupis whilst traveling with A. S., and a monthly pension of 1000 Rupis after he had brought him back safe to India. Major Hay Assist. Commiss, of Kúlu probably knows more of Mohámmad Amín's history.

[Mohámmad Amín, an aged Turkistáni, has rendered us during our expedition to Turkistán most devoted and important services. His manner of treating the natives, and the cor-

^{*)} Dr. Härkishen, a Brahman now employed at the hospital at Almora, is a native Doctor; he was, alternating with others, attached to our establishments during 2 years, traveling now with the one, then with the other of us three. He also was very useful to us as observer on stations for corresponding observations.

dial reception he met with everywhere, plainly showed that in his own country he was very well known and esteemed and considered as an important person. We essentially owe it to his clever behaviour with the natives that we made it possible to advance as far as we did.

It may be, that he later named to Adolphe's establishment an exaggerated sum for his pay, perhaps for appearing as a more important person.

Whilst he was with us, all our money transactions, sometimes to a pretty great amount passed through his hands, and we never had the least cause to complain of him.]

No. 2. Name not known to Deponent (Hărkishen) [We know this man personally; his name is Murád; he is a native of Bokhára. We saw him first in Ladák, after our return from Turkistán; he at this time has given us much valuable information about routes in Central Asia and we always have found him a very trustworthy, respectable native]. He was commonly called "Yahúdi", i. c. "the Jew", was a native of Yárkand and dependent of Mohámmad Amín: they had some baggage poneys with them, and 4 Turkish grooms or baggagemen, all of which were engaged by A. S. for the journey.

No. 3. Mohámmad Hássan of Pesháur was engaged by A. S. when he was at that place in December 1856 as a Múnshi, assisting also in scientific observations and accounts.

The last documentary evidence of A. S's. movements written by himself is a letter to Härkishen dated from Changchénmo in Ladák 14th June 1857, a postscript to the same, stating that it was not sent till the 24th idem; and one or two notes for sundry payments of money, of the latter date. The letter consists chiefly of instructions to Härkishen, and of A. S. himself only says: "I am quite well and at present all things seems to go on pretty right", but as it also mentions two Dāk parcels, one for Lt. Charles Hall (Assist. Commiss. of Bhágsu), sent by the same dispatch for transmission to Kángra, other persons have no doubt received letters from him and the particulars of his history, up to that time.

[We have received none of the letters mentioned. Also the Rev. H. Jäschke, Missionary at Lahól, who received about the same time letters from our brother, copies of which he had the kindness to send us, could not give us any other information about his later movements.]

These documents were brought from Ladák by the Chaprássis Múrli and Máula Baksh (No. 6 and 7 of the above list) who joined Härkíshen at Kárdong in Lahól on the 20th of July 1857.

It appeared from the statement of these men (made to Hărkíshen) that before they left A. S. the Múnshi Mohámmad Hassán had deserted, taking with him one of his master's (or Mohámmad Amín's) poneys, some little money, and other articles belonging to A. S. The Chaprássi's were directed to overtake him if they could, recover the property and make it over to Hărkíshen in Kúlu: which they succeeded in doing, but leaving the Múnshi himself in Ladák, whence he probably made his way to Kashmír and Pesháur. He gave them a letter for his master, which they brought to Hărkíshen, and is still extant among his papers, written in pencil in broken English, excusing his sudden departure on the score of inability to endure the hardship of such a journey any longer, and admitting a balance of 72 Rps., of which he gave the Chaprássi's his accounts but did not pay the money.

It must be observed that A. S. makes no allusion to all this in his letter to II arkishen; from which it may perhaps be inferred that he did not attach much importance to the Múnshi's desertion.

Härkishen when at Déra in Novbr. 1857 gathered from Captain Montgomery of the trigonometrical survey and his native doctor, that they had been in Ladák during the past sum-

mer, and that A. S. had left Leh*) before their arrival there, and that they know nothing more of him.

From the locality of his last dispatch, Changchénmo (which may be seen in my map at the N. E. end of Ladák) I infer that he crossed the Turkish watershed to the east of the Karakorúm Pass, properly speaking perhaps to Súget, thence following approximatively the route taken by his brothers the year before, towards Kílian and Khótan.

It appears that he had laid in a stock of merchandize in India, with the view of facilitating his journey by trade or the appearance of it.

[We also had with us instead of money, chiefly merchandize, rich Indian cloth, silks etc.]

2. Statement made by Bhútias from Johár, Almóra August 1858.

From the Bhútias of Johár who got their information from Kashmíris of Ladák at the Gártok fair in the Autumn of 1857 I heard that Ad. Schl. had succeeded in reaching the margin of the inhabited Country at the foot of the Mountains [north of the Küenlüen]. There he went out from his camp some way to reconnoitre, and in his absence the guide Mohámmad Hássan absconded, with most of the baggage and cattle**), towards Yárkand. Ad. Schl. being left helpless, sent back some of the Ladáki baggage men he had brought with him with a letter or Message to the Thanadár of Leh requesting him to send assistance in men, cattle, provisions and money; whether for the purpose of continuing his attempt to penetrate into Turkistán or merely to return to Ladák with less hardship, does not appear.

When his messengers arrived at Leh they found Básti Ram's son in Authority there; the Thanadár himself being away in Kashmír. The son is said to have refused the required assistance: more likely, in fact, he was too silly and timid to act upon his own responsibility, and referred for instructions to his father or Guláb Singh in Kashmír, at the expense of great delay and danger to Ad. Schl.

3. Information contained in the Déhli-Gazette and general remarks of Capt. Strachey. Summer 1858.

The following accounts are derived from letters which have been published during the summer 1858 in the Dehli-Gazette, from a correspondent of that paper apparently at Simla and deriving his information from merchant travelers from Ladák.

From these it may be gathered that Ad. Schl. passed the winter of 1857|58 at the foot of the mountains [of the Küenlüen] on the border of Khótan, on this side of the Chinese outposts; among the same Tribe of shepherds perhaps who gave his brothers a friendly reception the year before. On his arrival there the provinces of Káshgar and Yárkand were in a very disturbed state, from one of those invasions of the Turks from Kókand which have been recurring periodically every 10 or 20 years during the past century.

On these occasions the foreign invaders being joined by the Turks of the Country, usually succeed in driving the Chinese Garrisons into their forts and subverting the celestial government for a time, till reinforcements come from the Chinese Provinces further east, when the rabble of



^{*)} Adolphe had not been in Leh during this journey.

^{**)} Besides the animals of burden: horses and yaks, travelers in these regions are always obliged to take with them a living stock of sheep, goats etc. for their support. Yak is the name of the Tibetan Ox = Bos gruniens.

Turks soon becomes disorganized, the Kokándis retire to their own country and the people of Yárkand and Káshgar are left to settle their own accounts with the Chinese, which is sometime done by whole sale massacres of the Turks of those cities.

The invaders are commonly headed by one of the Khójahs of Andishán of the family which ruled at Káshgar before the Chinese conquest (about 100 years ago) and who still aspire to the recovery of their former dominions.

An unsuccessful invasion and rebellion of the Turks as here described occurred when I was (Capt. II. Strachey) in Ladák in 1847|48; on the present occasion the result is said to have been the same.

So long as the Chinese were in the ascendant Ad. Schl. would have had little chance of penetrating the inhabited country to so great a distance: they have out posts on all the roads across their frontier; from the rarity of population and traffic, individuals are easily marked; and Ad. Schl. would hardly be able to barbarize himself enough to bear scrutiny.

An European traveler attempting to pass any of these out posts would probably be stopped and turned back, and extra precautions taken against him all along the frontier, but if detected after penetrating the inhabited country to any distance he would more probably be murdered.

The English and Kokándis are generally speaking in no hostile relations and from his own successful antecedents in Yárkand, Ad. Schl. might possibly meet a friendly reception there. On the other hand the Kokándis are (as usual with the Turks of his country) on bad terms with all their neighbors, including the Russians, who are steadily encroaching on their North-West frontier; this would add to his difficulties in leaving their country again.

4. Report from Máni and Náin Singh. Almóra, January 1859.

[Máni and Náin Singh, Bhot-Rajpúts from the highest valleys of the Himálaya have been during 2 summers in our service; Máni also went with us to Turkistán, whilst Náin Singh (with the native doctor Härkíshen) remained at the magnetic observatory at Leh. We always found them most faithful servants; they also were of great assistance to us by their knowledge of the Tibetan and by their clever and prudent behaviour towards the natives.]

Máni and Náin Singh from Mílum in Johár, left Adolphe Schlagintweit at Pesháur in January 1857 and returned to their own country during the next 3 months making a few observations by the way, after this they had no further communication with Ad. Schl. excepting only by a message sent in March 1857 through Captain H. Strachey 66th Górkhas, which requested Máni to join Ad. Schl. again either at Kángra in April or later in Ladák which however Máni did not attempt.

Going as usual to the Gártok fair in the summer of 1857, Máni heard only some vague reports about Ad. Schl. from traders from Ladák, the substance of which is already given (cfr. No. 2).

In December 1857 Máni received a packet of a hypsometer, thermometers and other instruments with notes from Herman Schlagintweit through Mr. B. Colvin, Assist. Commissioner of Kămáon. These had been sent from Calcutta in April of that year, but owing to the disturbed state of affairs in Upper India soon after, and Mánis absence in Tíbet, their delivery was delayed till his return to Johár at the end of the year. He made little or no use of these instruments and ultimately returned them to me (Captain Strachey).

In September 1858, Máni being again at the Gártok fair, got some further information about Ad. Schl. chiefly from Núrpur, a native of Súnam in Kănáur, trading to Ladák and Yár-

kand. This person was himself at Yárkand in 1857. When Ad. Schl. arrived in that quarter, the Turks of Kókand were already at or near the city. Ad. Schl. himself did not enter the town but his chief guide Mohámmad Amín*) did so and left it again either before or during the siege, under what relations with his own master or with the insurgent Turks was not known to informant.

As the siege continued and the Chinese were shut up in their citadel they obliged the inhabitants of the place to take part in the fighting among others a lot of foreign merchants including about forty five (45) of the Bisséris of whom fifteen (15) only returned, informant Núrpur being one of them; the rest were either killed or made prisoners by the Turks.

After the siege was raised, informant heard that Ad. Schl. had joined the camp of the Turks, and been at first well received by them; on their retreat towards Kókand, he accompanied them as far as Káshgar. As the hordes of Turks were carrying off with them a lot of their prisoner to be kept or sold for slaves (according to their custom) some of the Bisséris **) being among the number, Ad. Schl. tried to assist them, remonstrated that they were British subjects and should be released. On this arose a dispute; the Turks accused Ad. Schl. of taking part with their ennemies and ended by killing him.

Máni also said that Núrpur had certificates from the Chinese authorities of Yárkand, testifying his services in the siege, and promissing him some reward at a future opportunity.

The above account of the Bisséri Núrpur was confirmed by Omar an Argon***) of Ladák who had received letters from his friends at Yárkand to the same effect.

II. Information received from G. Knox, Esq., Assistant Commissioner of Kulu.

5. Verbal Statement of Kăttah Ali Shah from Yarkand. Nágger in Kúlu, 28th September 1858.

Last year in the month of Sévan (July 1857) viz. 14 months ago, the Andishánis†) came to Yárkand to fight with the Chinese, and I went to Kárgalik, two days journey south of Yárkand. The Andishánis took me and all the Pănjábis, Kábulis, Kashmíris and Hindostánis, in all some 40 or 50 persons, prisoners; at that time two Andishánis and a Múnshi were accompanying a Sáhib who was coming from the Ladák side; these 3 men ran away with the Sáhib's property and came to Kárgalik; there they stopped in the house of one Kurbán and they said to him, we have some property for sale, do you take it? When we had sent for the property and examined it, he found it to consist of 12 or 14 yards of valuable embroidered cloth, a number of ordinary cloth and some other property also, but I did not see it with my own eyes. Kurbán having seen the things, went and reported the fact to Háji Mísser, Kardár of the Andishánis, saying that these men were poor and had nothing of their own, and that they must hove robbed this from somebody. Háji Mísser sent for them and intimidated them, questioning as to where they got the property and whose it was.

^{*)} According to the more probable information by Abdul communicated later, it was not Mohammad Amín, but Murád, who entered the city to get information.

^{**)} in whose country we hade been much traveling about.

^{***)} Argon is the name of the mixed races of Yarkandis and Ladakis.

^{†)} Andishán is a large town, situated east of Kókand.

They at first asserted the property was their own, but when threatened severely, they stated that Mohámmad Amín had brought a Feringhi*), and that they had stolen these articles and were escaping with them. Háji Mísser asked where the Feringhi was, they replied: "God knows, he was on his way to Yárkand; if he has gone there he will have arrived at the village of Kílian." Háji Mísser therefore sent 2 or 3 of his own men, and told them to go and fetch the Sáhib, they therefore went to Kílian and brought the Sáhib from thence to Kárgalik, and Mohámmad Amín was also with him.

[It may be surprising that it was not Mohámmad Amín they should have selected as interpreter at the following interview. But we only could speak ourselves through interpreters with Mohámmad Amín; he knows besides his native language, the turkish, only a little of the tibetan and rather more of the persian language, but no hindostáni whatever. Our interpreter, whilst traveling with him in Turkistán, was Makshút, a native of India, now settled in Ladák as landed proprietor, who knows very well turkish, persian, besides hindostani and tibetan; our chief tibetan interpreter was Máni. Both, Makshút and Máni, had formerly been traveling with the Stracheys in their expeditions to Tibet; Makshút, now a pretty aged man, was also at one time the companion of Moorcroft. Our brothers interpreter seems to have been the run away Múnshi; also Abdúllah is missing here.]

Nobody understood the Sáhibs speech in the country, they searched therefore for somebody who could understand him, in hope of finding some one who could understand Hindostáni or Pănjábi. I was in confinement and they took me to the place. Háji Mísser told me to ask the Sáhib why he had come there. I asked the Sáhib, he replied that there was Shazádah, son of Mohammad Shah, living in the Andishan country, and he had visited him (Mr. Schlagintweit) in Lahór and had said "do you come to Andishán, Sáhib and I will establish friendly relations between the Naváb of Andishán and the Sáhibs, that it was on this account that he was on his way to Andishán". Háji Mísser confiscated all the Sáhibs property, and put the Sáhib in confinement, and sent him to Zúllah Khan, a principal Sirdár. When they put the Sáhib in confinement he said to me: "no one here understands my language, and my belief is, that these people will kill me, should you go to that side of the country, by Kúlu, tell this matter to Hay Sáhib; if you go by Kashnír tell it to whatever Sáhib you meet." After this the Sáhib went away. On the day that the Sahib went to Sirdar Zulluh Khan, on the same day the Chinese force came to fight with the Andishanis and the Andishanis fought for half an hour and then ran away and took the Sáhib with them. When the Chinese force came all the Andishán Kardárs ran away, and we forty or fifty men who were in confinement got free. I afterwards heard that Dil Khan, the great chief of the Andishanis had taken the Sahibs property and put him to death, but I only heard this from report of travelers of Káshgar and Yárkand, I did not see it with my own eyes.

Question: Do you know any thing of the property of the Sahib or his servants?

Answer: No, I do not know any thing about them. I only saw the Sáhib and Mohámmad Amín Móghul**), some also said that Mohámmad Amín had been killed, others that he was alive, others that he had his nose and ears cut off.

^{*)} Feringhi is in India and Central Asia the general designation of an European, the word being a modification of Franc.

^{**)} Moghul is the general designation of the Turks in Central Asia.

III. Information received from the "Departement Asiatique" of St. Petersburg through Baron Budberg Russian Minister at Berlin.

6. Letter from Mr. Vardouguine, Russian Consul at Chúguchak.

Chúguchak *) 31 December 1858.

Although the following informations must tend to increase the general sympathy which is felt in the fate of the renowned and universally respected traveler Adolphe Schlagintweit, they unfortunately offer no consolation to his brothers.

In the autumn of 1857 at the time of the insurrection against the Chinese in Turkistán which was headed by Búzruk Khan, a nephew of Jehángir Háji, a Ferínghi (European) came to Turkistán from India**) giving himself out for a merchant.

Having received the permission of the Chinese authorities to proceed to Káshgar, the traveler unfortunately arrived on the day when Búzruk Khan made his entrance into the town. The next day, he presented himself before the latter to obtain his permission to extend his journey into Kókand; Búzruk Khan, however taking him for a Chinese spy caused him to be murdered. It has been asserted that he declared to Búzruk Khan, before his death, that his murder should not remain unpunished as no means would be neglected to find him.

This report has occasioned a belief in the country that "this European was a person of high importance, belonging to the Feringhis who govern India" (i. e. that he was an Indian officer).

Il is also asserted that the four Europeans composing his retinue***) were also murdered. The person through whose agency I obtained these details did not know whether he was also accompanied by Mussălmáns. All the effects of this traveler are said to have been taken by Búzruk Khan, on his return, to Kókand.

It is further reported that this traveler came from India intending to proceed through Tibet to Kókand, or, in the event of being prevented from doing so, to return as he had come. His name is unknown. All that I can learn respecting him is that he was very tall [at least in comparison with the much smaller races of Central-Asia].

I obtained these statements on inquiring of the headman of a large caravan from that place whether any Europeans had fallen in the rebellion in Turkistán.

Unfortunately the statements I received especially as to the routes†) agree but too well with the points to which my attention was directed as being essential ones in reference to the person into whose identity I was commissioned by the Asiatic Departement in November (No. 4160) to make investigations.

^{*)} Chúguchak, 46° 9' N. Lat. 83° 7' Long. E. from Greenwich is a russian station south of the Záisang Lake

^{**)} The name Sikemarata here given as the name of a little town, from which he is supposed to have come, must refer to to the country of the Sikhs, the Pănjáb. We are unacquainted with any town bearing this or a similar name.

^{***)} This appears to be an error. He had no European attendants.

^{†)} Our letters, in consequence of which Prince Gortschakoff had the kindness to institute inquiries, contained indications about the details of our brothers possible routes to Turkistan, and also about those which he might have adopted to reach the Russian territories.

7. Second report from Mr. Vardouguine forwarded to Baron Budberg by Mr. George Kowalewski, St. Petersburgh $\frac{2}{14}$ March 1859.

The Prince Gortschakoff has already communicated in his despatch to your Excellency (Baron Budberg) of the $\frac{10^{th}}{22^{nd}}$ of February, some information which Mr. Vardouguine, acting as our Consul at Chúguchak had forwarded to him, and which appear to have some bearing on the fate of Mr. Schlagintweit. According to a fresh report, dated $\frac{24 \text{ January}}{25 \text{ February}}$, from the same official, it would appear that this illfated traveler had not four, but only three companions who did not share his fate but saved themselves. Mr. Vardouguine brings forward a circumstance which, however indefinite it may seem, may still not be without weight for those who personally knew Mr. Schlagintweit, in establishing his identity. The traveler who is said to have been killed, is described as having a mole (tâche naturelle) under his right eye.

[Our brother certainly had no such mole, but it is not impossible that some scarred wound, of which we knew nothing, might be meant.]

In communicating this information, M. le Baron, I consider it useless to observe how little credence it deserves. The inhabitants of those distant regions where they were collected, generally speaking, make no scruple of modifying their reports at pleasure, especially when Europeans are concerned.

IV. Reports collected by Lt. Colonel H. B. Edwardes, C. B., Commissioner and Superintendent Pesháur Division.

8. Letter to R. Temple, Esq., Secy. to the Chief Commissioner of the Pănjáb. Pesháur 18 December 1858.

Political Departement.

I am not aware whether the chief commissioner has yet received a reliable account of the circumstances attending the death of the German traveler Mr. Adolphe Schlagintweit; but at ony rate it will be satisfactory to Government, and his friends, to be able te compare the enclosed narratives of the sad events.

The first No. 9 is the verbal statement of a Kashmíri follower of Mr. Schlagintweit's named Abdúllah*), who arrived here viâ Bokhára and Kábul three days ago (15 Dec. 1858).

The second No. 10 is the written report of a native of Yárkand**), named Mohámmad Amín, who appears to have been provided by Lord William Hay, as a kind of courier to Mr. Adolphe Schlagintweit. He writes from Kókand and Abdúllah is the bearer of his letter.

From these statements, which appear to me substantially trustful, it seems that Mr. Schl. was impelled by a desire to find a road to Yárkand which need not pass through Ladák;



^{*)} His full name is Abdullah Mohammad.

^{**)} In the official report Mohámmad Amín was called a native of Ladák, what we altered, since we know Mohámmad Amín, who was also our chief guide in the previous during our travels in Turkistán, to be a native of Yárkand. Adolphe had however not seen him, he having left us at Leh in Ladák. For further remarks about Mohámmad Amín see page 3 and 4 of these reports.

that he reached Yárkand; found that country harried by crescentaders from Kókand; and passed on to Káshgar, where the same fanatical raids were going on, and the leader of one of them, a Sáyad named Váli Khan, seized Mr. Schl. 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 Mr. Schl. 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 barbarians frenzy for the propagation of error by the blood of his followmen.

I have sent by separate parcel a slip of paper, and a broken pocket telescope, which were the only relics Abdúllah could bring away with him.

[We have received these objects. — The handwriting on the slip of paper is sure to be that of our brother; but it is beyond all doubt that it had been written not during his travels in Turkistán; it is dated "Pesháur" and is probably written in December 1856. It seems to be a thrown away label, probably on account of being indistinctly written, belonging to an object of his ethnographical collections.

The telescope which Abdul says to have been bought from one of the people, who robbed our brothers property was certainly not his; it looks as if it had been purchased in a native bazar of Peshaur, and it is of so rude external appearance, that our brother cannot even have taken it with him as an object of present for natives; it only magnifies 1½ times and gives very badly defined images.

We have communicated to Col. Edwardes our well founded doubts that these objects should have been amongst our brothers property in Turkistán and we have requested him again to cross-examine Abdúllah, and to keep at the same time in mind the improbability of his statements, at least in reference to these objects.]

9. Verbal statement given by the Kashmíri Abdúllah an attendant on Mr. Adolphe Schlagintweit.

About two years ago when the Amír of Kábul came to pay a visit*) to Pesháur, Mr. Ad. Schl. the surveyor was in Pesháur, and I was employed under him as a Sepoy of the guard. On the Amír's return to Kábul, Mr. Ad. Schl. went to Kohát, and thence viâ Kalabágh and Déra Ismáel Khán to Lahór, where having purchased necessary things for the journey he set out for Bhágsu (i. e. Dharamsála the head quarters of the Kángra Dislrict). Here he left half the Government property he had in his charge, and with the other half he went to Kúlu and Sultánpur. Here he got acquainted with Mohámmad Amín of Yárkand whom Lord William Hay had sent for the purpose.

Mohámmad Amín was obliged to go for protection to Lord William Hay to be safe from Guláb Singhs prosecution. (See Capt. Stracheys Report.)

Also the officer [named Basti Ram], who was posted to Ladák as a Thanadár by Maharája Guláb Singh**), bore very ill feelings towards Mohámmad Amín, because the later had shown to Europeans, to the brothers of my master, the way to Yárkand.

^{*)} This official visit took place end of December 1856. Our brother Adolphe was then in the suite of Sir John Lawrence, when he had his interview with Dost Mohammad Khan at Jamrúd near Peshaur.

^{**)} Guláb Singh the King of Kashmír, died in August 1857; his successor is his son Rámbir Singh.

My master (Mr. Ad. Schl.) stopped at Sultánpur for some days with a view to arrange with Mohámmad Amín for the journey. He then sent his baggage under the care of Mohámmad Amín to Kóthi Kárnung, and he with myself, Doctor Hărkishen, and Gosht Mohámmad Butler went vià Búngal to Kóthi Kárnung. Here he halted 5 days, sent his Múnshi Ramchárn, and 2 Chaprássi's to Kashmír, purchased 60 horses and provisions, and with Múnshi Mohámmad Hássan a native of Pesháur, Dr. Hărkishen, Gosht Mohámmad Khánsamah, myself, and Mohámmad Amín of Yárkand and his 3 followers proceeded to Ladák. When we reached a place 3 days journey from Leh, Mohámmad Amín pointed out to the Sáhib a road vià Sirikúl to Kókand by which he suggested to Mr. Schl. to proceed. Mr. Schl. consented to this proposal, dismissed Dr. Härkishen, 2 Chaprássi's and 2 others employed in the survey office to return to Hindostán (India), sent one Chaprássi with his heavy baggage to Ladák, and he himself with Mohámmad Amín and some other followers went to Chúsel [near the Lake Tsomognalarí, the great salt Lake of Pangkóng.]

There he hired 60 porters and with them set out.

After three days journey Munshi Mohammad Hassan of Peshaur having taken a horse out of Mr. Schl. stable away at night ran away and carried away with him his book of accounts. Mr. Schl. sent to search after him a man, named Rahiman, a native of Balti, and lent him a horse to ride on; but he also never returned. Mr. Schl. halted 3 days in the same uninhabited country and then taking Mohammad Amín and 2 natives of Tibet went to discover the way. By means of a telescope he at last found a way, and started with his baggage, but in reality we missed the proper route, and after a weary journey came by the side of two small lakes, the water in one of which was reddish, and in the other greenish, but both bitter [saline], so that all his followers through despair began to lament and sigh to return.

[The difficulties of traveling, here described, perfectly agree with what we had to experience ourselves during our passage over the chains of the Karakorúm and the Küenlüen. We had to travel without any trace of a road, 21 days and had not met with one man. In these great elevations, 15000 to 18000 E. feet, we found no wood, extremly scarce food for our horses and scarcely drinkable water in sufficient quantity.]

Upon this Mr. Schl. dismissed some Tibetans together with one Chaprassi by name Murli. He then with myself, Mohammad Amin of Yarkand and his 3 followers, Gosht Mohammad Khansamah and 2 Tibetans resumed his journey, and on his way met with only a single house situated in a deserted tract of country from which the city of Élchi, the capital of Khotan, was distant by 3 days journey.

On our going with Mr. Schl. from Sultánpur to Yárkand, our way lay through an uninhabited country; for our master had selected a new route and marked it with stones as he went along and drew a sketch of it.

This was a way, which led straight to Yárkand, without passing through Leh; but with the exception of a few inhabited huts [on the tibetan, southern side of the Karakorúm] in some places, the whole of the tract was an entire wilderness. Mr. Schl. however, did not proceed from this single house situated at 3 days marches from Élchi, to the direction of this city, but turned towards Súget where he stayed 3 days. Mohámmad Amín here again urged upon Mr. Schl. not to proceed to Yárkand, but to Sirikúl, and thence on to Kókand. Mr. Schl. consequently set out for Sirikúl.

On the 3rd day he came up to the summit of a Pass where the night we arrived snow fell to a great extent; the horses that he had brought with him were all taken away by the servants of Mohámmad Amín, but we next morning went in pursuit of the robbers, and Mo-

hámmad Amín with one of his servants who was a Jew also accompanied us. [This must have been Murád.]

We at last recovered 7 horses from the thieves, and sent Mohámmad Amín and his servant ahead to search for the rest. Mohámmad Amín had not instigated his men to rob our Sáhib of his horses, but they of their own accord had done the deed. On our return, we asked Mr. Schl. to retire down the Pass in order to be safe from the severity of the cold, and to get provisions. He accordingly descended from the Pass and reached Shúmla Khója, where Mohámmad Amín also came up with the 3 remaining horses, which had been stolen, and dispatched his servant by name Murád, the Jew, to Yárkand, to bring information of the wars that were then going on there. The Jew returned and reported that it was the Khan of Kókand who had been making war. We therefore without hesitation set out for Yárkand, and sent Gosht Mohámmad Khánsamah under the care of a Caravan back to Kángra, with a present of a horse valued at 200 Rupis besides 200 Rupis in cash, and an order for 300 Rupis on Kángra.

[Also Mohámmad Amín mentions nearly quite the same about Gosht Mohámmad being dispatched to India and about the sums he received in cash and in a draft on Kángra.

Fully aware of the danger of his positions Adolphe most probably had sent him to Kángra for taking charge of and for delivering there observations, drawings and collections, and he also gave him the rather large amount mentioned above for enabling him to get these objects down to Kángra.

Till now we have not heard anything about Gosht Mohammad; but we have written immediately to Kangra and to Muradabad (his native place) requesting, that the most careful inquiries after him might be made.]

We passed through Kárgalik and Bozgán and arrived at the camp of Dil Khan Sáyad of Kókand who had come with an armed multitude to make a religious war with Yárkand. His camp lay outside the city, and about an hour after our arrival the army of the Khatáis*) which formed the garrison of the city came out to encounter the besiegers on the open field and routed them, and obliged Dil Khan to fly. Mr. Schl. likewise leaving all his baggage there, fled with his followers to Négsăr, and thence went to Káshgar. Here another Sáyad of Kókand named Váli Khan who had likewise come on a religious expedition had succeeded in getting the throne of Káshgar; Mr. Schl. desired an interview with him, but it was refused and a guard was sent to apprehend us.

They accordingly carried us prisoners into the presence of Váli Khan, who ordered Mr. Schlagintweit to be beheaded, and so the order was instantly carried out. Váli Khan did not ask any question of Mr. Schlagintweit before his murder, and he was executed outside the city of Káshgar. He was allowed no burial, but a man, named Átta Báe, a native of Yárkand, had collected his bones and Mohámmad Amín assured me, that he would send them over to India vià Ladák. This tragedy occurred about 17 months ago [August 1857].

Váli Khan then sent me, and Mohámmad Amín of Yárkand, and Murád a Jew, and a native of Tíbet to prison; and afterwards sold me as a slave to a man called Túzăk for 25 Rupi by reason of my being a native of India.

A month after an army of Khatáis came and expelled Sáyad Váli Khan of Kókand together with the inhabitants of Káshgar, who took refuge in Kókand. I also accompanied the fugitives, and on my arrival at Kókand a Sáyad of Pesháur by name Mián Khalíl procured me freedom by paying to my master Túzăk the amount which he had paid for me.



^{*)} Khatái is the name given to the Chineses in Turkistán.

After I was set at liberty I stopped in Kókand for 10 months, during which time I sent three petitions to the King intimating that Mr. Schlagintweit had been murdered, and praying that justice might be done to him. But the King of Kókand without giving me any reply, tore up all my petitions. When I was in Kókand, it was the season of winter and consequently I never went out to see the country.

I met Mohámmad Amín of Yárkand at Kókand who advised me te return to India, and said that he would again apply to the King of Kókand for justice in the case of Mr. Schlagintweit.

Meanwhile the King of Bokhára prepared to make an inroad on Kókand, upon which, fearing bad consequences from a longer stay at Kókand I went to Bokhára.

On my departure from Kókand, Mohámmad Amín gave me a Persian letter for the delivery to Colonel Edwardes in Pesháur, which I now present.

From Bokhára I came to Bálkh, from Bálkh to Kábul, and from Kábul to Pesháur.

10. Letter from Mohámmad Amín of Yárkand, to Colonel Edwardes, dated Kókand, 29th July 1858.

I went to Sultánpur, then to Lahól and over a Pass reached Rúpchu.

Here two roads diverge, one leading to Leh, and the other to Chúsel. My master asked me to direct the way to Aksáe Chīn, we consequently proceeded thither and passed through Changchénmo and having crossed a high ridge, [this is the Karakorúm chain] we came up to the road leading to Aksáe Chīn*). We arrived at a place, whereabout 2 forts were situated. The one was said to have belonged to Sikánder and was situated on the flanks of the Yurungkásh Pass. [We ourselves have also passed with Mohámmad Amín through Sikánder Mokám on the 18th of August 1856. It is a small now deserted fort; it seems never to have been anything else but a fortified place and was never permanently inhabited. Alexander the Great after whom it is named, is well known to the inhabitants of Turkistán, partly in historical, partly in more fabulous form; his name appears several times in geographical terminology]. The other Fort lay on the banks of the Karakásh which is one of the streams that flow through Khótan.

Traveling along the Karakásh river [and after having crossed the Küenlün] we came down the main stream of Khótan and passed trough Shaidúlla Khója which was intersected by two roads one connecting Yárkand with Tíbet, and the other leading to Tashkorgán, Ōsh and Kókand.

We halted at Shaidúllah Khója for five days. It was 20 day's journey from this to \bar{O} sh vià Tashkorgán, and 5 days' journey to Yárkand.

M. Schlagintweit told me that the way through Tashkorgán and Ōsh was very long, and that to Yárkand comparatively short, and that he would take the latter. I remonstrated that the latter was a dangerous, and the former a safe way. He then sent Murád the Jew to bring information from Yárkand. The Jew returned after 8 days in the company of eight caravans, and reported that the Khan of Kókand had wrested from the people of Khatáis [Chinese] the provinces of Káshgar and Yárkand.



^{*)} It is very characteristic for Mohammad Amin to see, little he complains compared with Abdul, about the difficulties of the road.

I however discredited the report, and said to Mr. Schlagintweit that the real Khan of Kókand would never undertake such a distant expedition; but that since 12 years some of the Bára Sáhibs [great men] of Kókand, who were Sáyads by birth, having collected vagabond outlaws, and all sorts of ragamuffins, made frequent inroads on Káshgar, and sometimes succeeded in defeating its Governors, and occupying their throne, and at other times were repulsed by the Chinese army, and obliged to retreat, that one of them Chíkchik Khója had once fallen into the hands of the army of Khatáis, and was since in confinement; and that, I added, if wars were going on at Káshgar, they must have been waged by these Sáyad fanatics, and not by the Khan of Kókand.

Mr. Schlagintweit nevertheless persisted on going to Yárkand [since the road to Káshgar and Kókand was equally dangerous on account of the disturbances coming from this direction, and since at the same time the distance to these places was much greater]. He sent back Gosht Mohámmad Khánsamah in company with a caravan to Kángra, and made him a present of 300 Rupi in cash, and an order for Rupi 300 on Kángra.

We then set out for Yarkand; on our approach the inhabitants of that place treated us with great courtesy, and furnished us with provisions; Mr. Schlagintweit also gave them presents suitable to their several ranks and deserts.

From thence we proceeded to Káshgar which was then occupied hy a Khója of Kókand who had defeated the original Governor and wrested from him his provinces, but the army of Khatáis was also encamped outside the city, and laid siege to a Fort called Gul-Bágh situated about a mile from the town.

The Mussalmans of the garrison every day came out and gave them battle. The fight was going on when we arrived; the Mussalmans asked who we were, Mr. Schlagintweit replied that he was the Honorable East India Company's Envoy and was going to the Khan of Kókand.

Upon this they got into a rage and ordered Mr. Schlagintweit to be beheaded, and I with my followers to be thrown into prison, and plundered of all our property. In 35 days of our confinement, my 2 servants died, and the third was missing.

Meanwhile the army of Khatáis having been reinfored from Máha Chīn*) overpowered the Khója, and obliged him to fly, I consequently got my release, placed the remains of Mr. Schlagint weit in charge of Murád for safe custody and proceeded to Kókand.

I have been 8 months in Kókand; and as the way to Káshgar remained blockaded during that time, and no traveler could pass to and fro, I could send no message to you; however lately Envoys have been sent to and received from Káshgar and peace restored; and the Khan of Kókand has deputed a man named Áka Sikál to Káshgar to bring about the state of affairs on the old footing. I shall therefore shortly leave for Káshgar, and having taken the remains of Mr. Schlagintweit shall proceed to Pesháur.

(With an Appendix.)



^{*)} Máha Chīn, i. e. Great China or China proper, in comparison to the Chinese province of Turkistán.

Printed by A. W. Schade. Berlin, 18 Grünstr.

Circular note in reference to the fate of Adolphe Schlagintweit, Esq.

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Dated Berlin 15, March 1859.

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Lord Stanley, the Secy. of State for India in Council, has been kindly pleased to send us for our information a most carefully compiled collection of official papers and memoranda, which the Govt. of India as well as several Civil and Military Officers have been good enough to collect in the hope of eludicating the fate of our brother Adolphe Schlagintweit, in charge of the Magnetic Survey of India since 1854. and the first of the second

The papers contain:

- 1. A large and most elaborate Memorandum, which Capt. Henry Strachev, 66th Gorkhas. has given himself the great trouble to compile partly from evidences of several Natives partly from notes contained in the Indian Newspapers. This memorandum is accompanied by another most valuable communication, the result of Capt. Strachey's indefatigable personal inquiries.
 - 2. Letters from the Dewan of Kashmir to the Chief Commissioner of the Panjab.
- 3. Several evidences taken by Major Lake and Messrs. Knox and Taylor, the Civil Officers of the Kangra District.

Besides these official letters the following gentlemen obliged us by private communications: a. Rev. H. Jäschke, Missionary at Kyelong in Lahoul with whom before starting for Ladak. Adolphe had the pleasure of staying some weeks. The Rev. gentleman also was kind enough to take charge of a part of his luggage and of such spare instruments which

Adolphe did not think advisable to take with him on his journey to the North. b. A. C. Gumpert Esq., Consul of Hamburg and Oldenburg at Bombay who had kindly put him-

self in communication with several officers of the Panjab and regularly forwarded us the

results of his inquiries.

c. Lord Elphinstone, Lord Hay, Major Rumsay, Hon'ble W. Elliot, L. Bowring Esq., W. Russel Esq., the particularly well informed special correspondent of the Times, and some other gentlemen, equally obliged us, when occasion presented itself, with their advice and information in addition to that which we owed to the Indian Press. In England especially Col. Sykes M. P. and Sir Roderick Murchison communicated us any letters they had received; in Germany it was chiefly our celebrated and most kind friend, Baron Humboldt, who assisted us in making our inquiries.

From an examination of these papers there is but too much reason to fear that Adolphe Schlagintweit has lost his life in Central Asia, propably in Kashgar after having left Yarkand.

Capt. Strachey's last memoir, Almora, January 1858 says:

"After the siege of Yarkand, was raised, Adolpha Schlagintweit had joined the camp of the Turks and accompanied them as far as Kashgar. As they were carrying off with them a lot soft their prisoners to be sold for slaves, some of the Bissahirs being among the number, Adolpha "Schlagintweit remonstrated that they were British subjects and should be released. On this arose a dispute. The Turks accused Adolpha Schlagintweit of taking part with their ennemies and sended by killing him."

A quite recent letter December 31. 1858 from Mr. Vardouguine, Russian Offg. Consul at Tchougoutchak in the Russian part of Central Asia, seems also to confirm his death. We received this letter through the energetic exertions of Prince Gortschakoff and it was delivered to us by Baron Budberg, the Russian Minister at Berlin. This letter had taken an admirably short time to reach us, being the answer to a request of November 8th. 1858. In this letter he is said to have been killed by order of Bouzrook Khan from Kokand who had besieged Kashgar and invaded Turkistan M. 3.1 minut

We feel most deeply obliged for all these numerous proofs of general sympathy in Europe and India, and we allow ourselves to draw the attention of our friends in India to the fact, that gven now, it, will; not: be, quite: impossible, to save, at least, through, their, seal, a great, part of his journals, observations, instruments and collections, which are the more valuable on account of the countries, in which, they were made the fill has the horizen as flower with the treet and with collections, drawings, books and some instruments are in Dehracin the Surveyor General's Office; the Missionaries of Lahoul have informed us, that similar objects are still left in their charge; we do not think it improbable; that even those, which Adolpha Schlagintweit carried with him, during, his travels, in Turkistan, might he recovered by suplan we have the house to propose We are perfectly awarp, that these objects cannot be got without Governments usual energetic assistance, and without the sanctioning the comparatively small Expenses mecessary for this purpose. ... in spinsequance of the following extract of all letter addressed to me by the India House as early as July 1858, we consider it our duty, again officially, to request the kind assistance of Government. ore of the Kongra District.

Besides these official but as the face of the state of the letter says.

Mith reference to the detten advessed by General Sabine, to the Secy. of the Reval Society, added 14th May 1858 in which the states that the 80 stations, visited by the Masses, Schlagint-weit are independent of those visited by Adalphe, Schlagintweit in his last, and fatal journey not which they have a prespect of receiving a journal and abservations the Court, expect that you will use every exaction to recover your later Brothers Momerands of the respective mention to be a second of India employed them is an it at a smaller traces this notion in more of the

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2. That, the Missionames st. Lahoul bearequested to south at Governments expense from Lahoul to Kaugra the collections observations and introments etc. and to draw up a Report specifying the claims to which Hari Chand as the square from Negi of Lahoul is sufficient for the journeys he undertook last summer in search of our draft here. Instituted to the light saw it summer)

sisted as in making our un miries:



- 3. That a note may be issued to the Lt. Governor of the Panjáb and to the Commissioners of Kamaon, Simla and Kangra, authorizing them to distribute freely circulars in the vernacular languages among the trading people of their districts, promising a reward for any papers, drawings, instruments or other property of Adolphe Schlagintweit delivered to them, the amount of remuneration being dependent on the nature and quantity of the property restored. It is beyond all doubt, that the traders would carry on such circulars to Kashmir, Ladak and the Countries of Central Asia which Adolphe Schlagintweit has visited.
- 4. That all the instruments, collections and observations thus recovered, be forwarded to us, if small parcels overland to Berlin, if boxes to London, addressed "Schlagintweit India House, for being worked out and put up like our other collections."

Finally we have the honor to add that copies of this circular note have been officially dispatched:

To the India House, London, To the Seats of Govt. in India and to the following Officers and Gentlemen in India:

Col. R. J. H. Birch, Calcutta;
L. Bowring Esq., Priv. Secy. to the Governor General;
The Commissioners of Kamaon, Kangra, and Simla:
G. Edmonstone Esq., Calcutta;
Hon'ble Walter Elliot, Madras;
A. C. Gumpert Esp., Bombay;
Rev. Jäschke, Lahoul;
W. Muir Esq., Allahabad;
Col. Ramsay, Nepal;
W. Russel, Esq., Oude;
The President of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta;
Major Richard Strachey, Calcutta;
Capt. Henry Strachey, Calcutta;
Col. Waugh, Mussoori.

We have the honor to be

vice the problem is such a such Sir of Another September 1, and your most obedient servants









Circular letter in reserence to the sate of Adolphe Schlagintweit Esq.

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From Mesere. H. and R. Schlagintweit

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