

Apart from his ability as a water-colour artist Mr. Atkinson is an excellent word-painter; for he so delineates the physical features of a country, that you seem actually to travel through a region which very few of us can ever hope to visit.

The second Paper read was—

2. *Despatch from Captain HENRY STRACHEY, Gold Medallist R.G.S., respecting the fate of ADOLPHE SCHLAGINTWEIT.*

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

ADOLPHE SCHLAGINTWEIT crossed the Para-Lassa Pass from India to Thibet on the 31st May, 1857. The last documentary evidence consists of his letter to Harkishu from Chang-Chenmo of Ladak, dated the 14th June, with a postscript, stating that it was not sent till the 24th of June, and one or two notes, for sundry payments, of the latter date. These documents were brought from Ladak by the Chuprassies who joined Harkishu at Khardong of Garzha on the 20th of July, from whose statements it appears that before they left the moonshee, Mohamed Hasan, had deserted, taking the ponies, some money, and other articles belonging to M. Schlagintweit, but was overtaken, and the property recovered. Harkishu gathered from Captain Montgomerie, F.R.G.S., of the Trigonometrical Survey, and his native doctor, that they were in Ladak during the summer when he had left. From the locality of his last despatch, Chang-Chenmo, it is inferred that he crossed the Turkish waterparting to the east of the Kara-Korum Pass, perhaps to Sugat on the head of the Kara-Kash, and thence followed the route taken by his brothers the previous year towards Kiliam and Khoten. It seems that he had laid in a stock of merchandise to facilitate his journey by trading. From another source, the Bholiyas of Jwar, the information serves to show that he had reached the margin of an inhabited country at the foot of the mountains; left his camp to reconnoitre, and, in his absence, the guide absconded with most of the baggage and cattle towards Yarkand. Being thus left helpless, M. Schlagintweit sent to the Yanadar of Le for assistance in men, cattle, provisions, &c., whether for the purpose of penetrating into Turkistan, or returning to Ladak, remains undetermined. The next accounts are derived from merchant travellers from Ladak, from whom it appears that he had passed the winter of 1857-58 on the border of Khoten, and that on his arrival the provinces of Kashgar and Yarkand were in a disturbed state from one of the periodical invasions of the Turks. It is unlikely that he would remain more than one winter here, or that if still in the locality he would not have opened communication

with Ladak and India : probably, therefore, he took the opportunity of the temporary subversion of Chinese authority to enter Khoten or Yarkand. To go far or remain there, he could hardly avoid the notice of the insurgent Turks, who, though contrary to their natural impulse, might, in the actual conjuncture, welcome him as an enemy to the Chinese, and the love of travel and enterprise might prompt M. Schlagintweit to offer himself in that capacity. In either case, when the Chinese got the upper hand, they would first regain possession of their southern frontier towards Ladak, and he would probably retire with the invading Turks through Kashgar into Khokan, with which our relations have been very slight, although wholly amicable, and on the strength of them, he might meet a friendly reception there ; on the other hand, the Khokanis are on bad terms with all their neighbours, including the Russians, who are steadily encroaching on their north-west frontier, and this would add to his difficulties in leaving their country again.

The ways out of Khokan are e. to Ili and s.e. to Kashgar, both completely stopped by the Chinese ; s. to Badakshan and Cabul, but physically and politically most difficult ; s.w. to Samarkand and Bukhara, and w. to Khiva, both probably hostile to Khokan, and certainly so to the British. A European, and especially an English traveller, would find safety there only from Russian protection. Lastly, to the Russian outposts on the n.w. and North Fort Aralsk, near the Araland Ak-majed on the Sir (Jaxartes), where most probably he has proceeded, as he would then be in the civilised world again. It would be futile to discuss the chances of his ultimate escape, hanging as they do on the caprices of the vilest barbarians of Central Asia.

THE PRESIDENT.—You will recollect that the three brothers Schlagintweit proceeded over Thibet and the chains of the Himalaya, Kara-Korum, and Kuen Lun to Khoten, and the descriptions of two of the brothers, Hermann and Robert, have been made known to the Society. The third brother, Adolphe, went to Yarkand, where it was currently reported and generally believed that he had been killed in an affray between the Chinese and the Turcomans.

Reports have indeed since been gathered by our medallist, Captain Henry Strachey, so well known, and he having sent them to the Secretary of State for India, Lord Stanley has been so kind as to communicate them to this Society.

SIR C. MURRAY.—I have never been able to visit the country so far east, but I can say this with complete confidence, that, from my own experience, however we may differ from Russia politically, if any English traveller falls into the hands of the Russian commanders, I am perfectly convinced that his safety and his honour will be respected in every way ; that I can bear my own testimony to from personal experience.

MR. T. W. ATKINSON, F.R.G.S.—I do not take the same gloomy view with regard to the fate of Schlagintweit that many people have entertained. Having had some experience among the tribes in those regions, I can state that a man

is of too great a value for them to kill him. It is very rare that such a thing happens; it is under extraordinary circumstances if they resort to murder. Schlagintweit has two or three routes by which he may turn up yet. One is towards the Kirghis steppes and the Jaxartes, and if he comes upon the Russian pickets in that country he is certain to be safe. Another route is towards Persia, and I think he has a great chance of reaching that country and of passing through it.

SIR C. MURRAY.—The Persians are very hostile to the tribes that he is with.

MR. ATKINSON.—But not to him.

SIR C. MURRAY.—Not to him, but to the tribes.

MR. ATKINSON.—I can give you an instance of the possibility of his being yet alive. While I was absent I was lost for near eighteen months, and my friends in Siberia gave me up for dead. The gentleman with whom I had left what little property I had there, was about to make application to our minister in St. Petersburg, to know how it was to be disposed of. Fortunately, I returned and claimed it; and so, I think, Schlagintweit may turn up yet.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

Letter from Isaac J. Hayes, Esq., to the President, on the Arctic Expedition under the late Dr. E. K. Kane, &c.

To SIR RODERICK IMPRY MURCHISON, *President of the Royal Geographical Society of London.*

Philadelphia, May 23, 1858.

SIR,—I have learned that at a late meeting of the Royal Geographical Society a discussion arose upon the discoveries made by the American expedition to the Arctic Seas under the command of Dr. E. K. Kane of the U. S. navy.

By one of the London journals which reported the proceedings of the meeting, it appears that Dr. Rink of Copenhagen submitted some remarks touching the correctness of certain observations made by one of the exploring parties (William Morton, and Hans, an Esquimaux hunter) from the brig *Advance*, viz. the geographical position of the lands to the northward of the 80th parallel, and the open water reported to have been seen beyond it.*

The fidelity of Morton is vouched for by Dr. Kane to the extent of his means of knowledge as commander, in circumstances affording peculiar opportunities for ascertainment of character. His material was worked up by Mr. Charles A. Schott, an accomplished assistant of the U. S. Coast Survey Corps. Whatever error is assignable must therefore fall within one of these three descriptions, viz. imperfect instrumental observations, imperfect dead reckoning, and the mean adopted by Dr. Kane between the two.

I do full justice to the candour of Dr. Rink, and his desire to promote the accuracy of geographical records; but since he has announced his conclusions before the distinguished Society over which you presided, and his criticisms attracted the special attention of members so well instructed as yourself, Sir George Back, Captain Collinson, and Dr. Armstrong, it seems to be a duty incumbent upon myself at the earliest moment to invite the renewed

* For Dr. Rink's Paper see "Proceedings" R.G.S., vol. ii., p. 195, &c.; also "Journal" R.G.S., vol. xxviii.—ED.