

were all at some distance from the road, and it was only occasionally that glimpses of them, cropping out above the exuberant vegetation, could be obtained. For 18 miles, to the Caspian at Bandar-i-Gez, the road ran through an uninterrupted forest. At this season the road was dry and good, but the once magnificent causeway of Shah Abbas has almost disappeared, and it was only at long intervals that I saw upturned portions of it.* Gez is a thriving town, scattered over a large area, about 3 miles to the south of its port, within the forest.†

The port of Gez, or "Kinar-i-Bandar-i-Gez," as it is written, consists of an incomplete caravanserai, custom and warehouse, and a few wretched huts occupied by shipping officials and traders. Many offers have been made by Russia to build a pier here, as the water is too shallow to admit of even cargo-boats coming within 200 yards of the beach; but all such have been jealously declined by the Persian Government, nor will it permit the present rude and dangerous structure to be replaced or improved by the merchants interested.

I was also informed that Russia had been desirous of establishing a naval sanatorium here, but that privilege appears to have been declined also, and they have no footing whatever upon the mainland of Persia in this quarter, beyond an acre or so of land near the shore for the growth of vegetables.

2. *Miscellaneous Notes on Eastern Turkistan.* By R. B. SHAW.

I. MEASURES (linear) used in EASTERN TURKISTAN:

2 cheeza = 1 alcheen = 28 inches English (comp. Russian arschine.)

II. EXCHANGE of YARKAND CURRENCY with INDIAN.

Taking gold as the standard:—

1 tillah = 6 rupees = 34 tangas.

1 rupee = 5·7 tangas (= 2 shillings).

Taking silver as the standard:—

1 koor = 166 rupees = 1080 tangas (average).

1 rupee = 6·5 tangas.

Roughly speaking, 1 rupee may be taken to equal 6 tangas, or 1 shilling to equal 3 tangas.

III. RELATIVE VALUE of SILVER and GOLD in EAST TURKISTAN.

On an average—

4 s̄r of gold = (12½ rupees weight) are given for one koor of silver (= 160 rupees' weight).

∴ Value of silver is to that of gold as 1 to 12½ (about).

* M. Khanikoff says of this part of the road: "Nous mimes deux jours à traverser la plaine boisée qui s'étend entre Astrabad et la plage. La Chaussée de Chah Abbas que nous suivions semble n'avoir été jamais réparée depuis la mort de ce grand roi; elle était dans un état déplorable." . . . "La beauté de la forêt était telle, qu'en admirant ses arbres gigantesques, on oubliait le mauvais état de la route. . . . Les vignes sauvages . . . étalaient d'un arbre à l'autre leurs festons verdoyants sous lesquels le jasmin, le grenadier, les pruniers, et surtout le cratégus, formaient des bosquets souvent impenétrables."

† The exact spot where Mr. Jonas Hanway landed in December, 1743, may not easily be determined, but it is stated that, "having satisfied the people they were friends, he was received by them on the shore, and conducted by many crooked paths through a thick wood, to a small village; the city was about eight hours distant."

IV. WEIGHTS in use at YARKAND and KASHGAR :—

10 foong	=	1 miscál.
10 miscál	=	1 sēr (= 3¼ rupees-weight, nearly).
16 sēr	=	1 jing (= 1¼ lb. avoirdupois).
4 jings	=	1 chârak (of raw silk).
12½ jings	=	1 old chârak.
16 jings	=	1 new, or Andijânee chârak (and for all other goods).

V. COINS circulating in EASTERN TURKISTAN.

2 phools (imaginary coins)	=	1 dahcheen (small copper coin).
50 phools or 25 dahcheen	=	1 tanga (imaginary coin).
34 tangas (about)	=	1 tillah (a gold coin).
From 1070 to 1100 tangas	=	1 kooro or yamboo (a large Chinese silver boat-shaped lump, worth 166rs., = 16½ 12s.).
From 32 to 34 tillahs	=	1 kooro.

N.B.—The number of tangas given for a tillah, or for a kooro, and the value of the latter in tillahs, are subject to daily variation in the markets of Yarkand and Kashgar according to the relative supply of copper, silver, and gold. The tanga of Khoten is worth two Yarkand tangas.

VI. TAXATION OF EASTERN TURKISTAN.

The taxes are of three kinds :—

1. Kharâj. This is a tax of one-tenth of the gross produce of the land, levied in kind by officers entitled "Sirkar."

2. Zakât is a tax of one in forty, levied yearly on the increase of all sheep, cattle, and live-stock-generally; also a custom duty of the same amount on all imported goods ("Kafirs," or non-Mussulmans, have to pay double).

3. Tanâb is a tax on orchards, pleasure-grounds, &c. The unit of measurement is a "gaz" of seven times the breadth of the four fingers plus the length of the thumb. Land of the description thus taxed, measuring forty such "gaz" all round, pays 12 tangas a year = 4s. (This "gaz" would be about 3 feet 6 inches.)

All local expenditure is defrayed from the district taxes, the balance of which is sent to the immediate superior, who does the same in his turn. The proper expenditure of each of these officers is allowed him in account; he has no specified salary, and his promotion depends on the balance which he can transmit annually from his district.

VII. COMPARATIVE PRICES OF ENGLISH PIECE GOODS :—

Description.	In Bombay.			In Yarkand.		
	s.	d.	z.	s.	d.	z.
Prints (per piece of 28 yards)	3	11	13 0	16	0	to 44 0
Shirtings (white) (per piece of 40 yds.)	10	1	20 2½	28	0	40 0
Muslin for turbans	20	0	4 0	16	0	
Printed muslins	12	0	4 0	12	0	
Figure shirtings	40	0	14 0	40	0	
Women's veils (red)	2	6	3 9	8	0	
Green tea (per lb.)				4	6	10 0

N.B.—These Yarkand prices were obtained from a native merchant from India, who was in Yarkand at the time with a venture.

The Bombay prices are taken from the trade-circular of Messrs. Nicol & Co., of Bombay, for September, 1869.

Numerous samples of the Russian piece goods, with which the Yarkand and Kashgar markets are filled, are to be seen at the India Office; Dr. Forbes Watson having kindly had them mounted on card-board, with prices, &c., plainly marked. English goods are almost unknown in Eastern Turkistan.

The above prices are those obtained from some taken up as a venture by the Sikh merchant Tara Sing.

The cost of carriage from Bombay to Yarkand is about 3*l.* 15*s.* per cwt. It is calculated that the Russian goods which now have possession of that market cost 4*l.* 10*s.* per cwt. in carriage from Moscow to Yarkand.

VIII. LETTER from MOHAMAD YAKOOB ATALIGH GHAAZEE, KING OF EASTERN TURKISTAN.

To the receptacle of honour and dignity, ROBERT BERKELEY SHAW, Sahib.

After performance of the ceremonies of friendship, let it be revealed to the intelligent and sublime understanding of the wise and sagacious and eloquent [gentlemen] of high rank and dignity that I received the letter and presents you sent from Yarkand, together with the double-barrelled gun, by the hand of Azim-bai, and was glad to learn that you were enjoying good health. Letters serve as half meetings. It is my constant prayer that you may be preserved in good health. All goes right here. I have sent you a keepsake, and the peace be with you.

(Seal of) MOHAMAD YAKOOB,
1286 (A.H.).

[Translated in the Office of the Secretary to the Government, Punjab.]

IX.—CHRONOLOGICAL CYCLE OF TWELVE YEARS USED IN TURKISTAN.

No.	Names of the years.	Meaning.	Supposed peculiarities.
1	Chichkan	Mouse	Fine crops and happiness.
2	Kila	Cow	Many deaths and much affliction.
3	Koblán	Leopard or ounce	Enmity between kings.
4	Toshkan	Hare	Bad weather, hurricanes.
5	Boolook	Alligator	Much water from the mountains.
6	Eelán	Serpent	Plagues of snakes and scorpions.
7	At	Horse	Male children born this year.
8	Koeé	Sheep	Everything plentiful.
9	Maimoon	Monkey	Much deceit among men.
10	Tookha	Fowl	Trees produce much fruit.
11	Eet	Dog	Female children born this year.
12	Tangoos	Pig	Faithlessness and treachery.

This cycle of years is still chiefly used in Turkistán, being a relic of their old religion. Compare this with a similar but more complex cycle among the Thibetans.

3. *Meteorological Observations taken at Lé.* By W. H. JOHNSON; with Remarks by Major T. G. MONTGOMERIE, R.E.

THE following observations were taken by W. H. Johnson, Esq., F.R.G.S., Governor of Ladak for H.H. the Maharajah of Kashmir, Jummoo, &c., at Lé the capital of Ladak, 11,500 feet above the sea.

Mr. Johnson remarks that January is the coldest month at Lé, and, on looking at the column of remarks, it will be seen that the weather was very much more stormy and rough than was to have been expected in a province of Thibet, where clouds are generally supposed to be very rare. Mr. Johnson says that on some of the clear days, when it was windy and the thermometer below zero, the cold was intense, so much so, that when he went out of the house his feet used to feel as if they had had hot irons applied to them, though he wore thick felt stockings. His letter was dated Lé, 7th February, 1873, and he says that the cold was then not so severe, as the days were getting longer.