398 sheets of the Ordnance Survey, and 80 area books. Presented through the Director of Survey, Sir H. James, R.E.

The CHAIRMAN said that he had been requested to take the Chair this evening, in the absence of the President, who had been obliged to go to Cambridge in order to receive an honorary Degree. He was the more pleased on this occasion to take the Chair, as the subject to be brought before the meeting referred to the geography of Central Asia, in which he had always taken the greatest interest, and to which he had devoted many years of study. But, before proceeding to the actual business of the evening, he thought it only due to the Society that he should notify to them the arrangements that had been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government with regard to the late Dr. Livingstone and his family. He believed Sir Bartle Frere had informed them on a previous occasion that, in addition to the pension on the Civil List of 200*l.* a year, which had been bestowed upon the Livingstone family, an application had been made to Government for a further fixed capital sum for the family. He believed the sum which was recommended by the deputation that waited on the First Lord of the Treasury was 10,000*l.* or 11,000*l.*; but the Government, after due consideration, had thought that all claims would be liberally met by a grant of 3000*l.* Besides that, the Government had undertaken to pay all the arrears of pay which were due to Dr. Livingstone's followers and servants. On their arriving at the coast it was found that a sum of nearly 1000*l.* was due on this head, and the Acting Consul-General at Zanzibar had drawn for that amount upon the Geographical Society. The Society naturally felt that, although they took the greatest interest in Dr. Livingstone's proceedings, they were not properly responsible for these expenses; and when Sir Bartle Frere represented this to the Government they had, in a very fair and liberal spirit, consented to take the whole expense upon themselves. It would be understood, therefore, that all the pecuniary questions relating to Dr. Livingstone's late Expedition were now concluded.

The Chairman then introduced to the meeting Mr. SCHUYLER, the Secretary of the United States Legation at St. Petersburg, and a very distinguished traveller, who had recently returned from a most interesting journey in Central Asia. He was one of the very few Europeans—in fact, with the exception of the late Arthur Conolly and some Russian officers, he believed the only European—who had travelled in the interior of Kokand to the eastward of the present Russian possessions at Tashkend. Mr. Schuyler would now give them a brief account of his travels.

1. *A Month's Journey in Kokand in* 1873. By EUGENE SCHUYLER, Esq.

Mr. SCHUYLER spoke as follows:—

"I had the good fortune last summer to spend about eight months in Central Asia. I started from St. Petersburg in the month of March, and went by way of Orenburg and the Sir Daria to Tashkend, which I made my head-quarters during a greater part of the summer. From there I went to Samarkand, and spent a month at Bokhara. I also spent a month, consisting of halves of June and July of last year, in Kokand. I returned by way of Isik-kul, the former Chinese province of Kulja, and through Southern Siberia. I left Khojent, the largest Russian town on the frontier, on the 19th June, in company with a Russian Engineer, who was going

to Kokand to buy timber to construct a bridge over the Sir Daria at Khojent. We passed one night at Kostakos, and next day arrived at Makhram, a frontier town with a large square fortress, containing a garrison of 500 Kokand troops. The town itself is nothing, and of no importance. From Makhram I went to the town Kanibatam, celebrated even in the times of Baber for its almonds, and from there through Bish-Aryk to the city of Kokand, the capital of the country. Just before reaching Bish-Ayrk, I had to pass through a stony plain of about ten miles wide. This plain surrounds Kokand on all sides, except on those nearest the mountain. There is no water there at all. There was not a sign of verdure, and the wells were all dried up. The only water which the people had was brought from the streams on the other side of this desert place. I was detained at Kokand for, I think, four or five days, while information was sent to the Khan, who had gone to Namangan, of my arrival, with a request that I might be allowed to proceed to him, and continue my journey. I had brought a letter of introduction from the Acting Russian Governor-General at Tashkend, who was filling the place of General Kaufmann. While at Kokand I had the opportunity of observing the city and the inhabitants to a certain extent, and to notice somewhat about the trade: but I cannot say that my sojourn there was eminently pleasant; for, although during the day I was allowed freedom of action, and could go where I pleased, yet it was intensely hot, and I was insulted and reviled by any native who chose to do so, as the Russians—and I was supposed to be one—were not held in good repute. Although I was nominally a guest of the Khan, they did not choose to offer me a lodging, and I was staying with some Russian merchants in a serai, but I was shut up from seven in the evening until five in the morning, just when it was cool enough to go out. Finally, the Khan sent permission for me to go farther, and I went to the north-east, to the town of Balikchi. I arrived there in the evening, and was placed in the court of a small house, where I was very uncomfortable; but I was told that nothing better could be done for me until we had been presented to the Khan on the following morning. We had to get up about five, mount our horses, and ride about half a mile along the shore of the river, until we came to the garden, where he was residing in some tents. This was an annual tour which the Khan makes through the country, not exactly for the purpose of collecting tribute, but to receive rich presents from the Beks, who really govern the country, subject to him. After a short time we came to two lines of soldiers dressed in the most singular costumes,

some with uniforms, some without; some with matchlocks, some with muskets, some with sticks, some with sabres, all seated cross-legged at the side of the road, holding their arms at 'present,' in honour of the distinguished company. We then had to walk on foot between these soldiers, until we were finally seized by the elbows by a number of officials,—who, I found, were generals,—wearing long black gowns, and three epaulettes each, one on each shoulder, and one in the middle of the back. They pushed us forward until we got in front of the garden, where, at a distance of 500 feet, under a small green tent, we saw a number of people seated. It was so far off that I was not able to distinguish the Khan, or to tell how he looked. We were told to make a deep bow, which we did, and to deliver our letters. As soon as we did this, we were taken by the arms and dragged back again. I was astonished at this, as, knowing something of the customs of the country, I thought it was preliminary to being presented to him. Two or three of the party, especially the natives, were under the impression that we were going immediately to have our heads cut off; but, as it turned out, we had nothing to fear on that score. We were then taken to the house of the Bek of Balikchi, who told us he was ordered by the Khan to receive us. He gave us his house and a large garden, where we were kept for three or four days, and we were allowed to go out. The only time that I and my interpreter availed ourselves of the opportunity to look at the large wooden bridge that crosses the river, we were treated with great politeness; but, when we came back, astonishment was expressed that we dared to go out alone. After that, even when we went to bathe, we had ten soldiers to guard us: I suppose, either to prevent our attacking the natives, or the natives attacking us. For a long time it seemed to be quite undecided what we should do. I was told that I would receive a passport, in the form of a letter, with which I could travel anywhere I chose. It was requested that, after I had finished my travels, I should come back to the Khan, wherever he might be, and thank him, and have the honour of a personal interview with him. As soon as I received the passport to go further, no more sheep were given to us, and it was necessary to get away as soon as possible, in order not to starve. I went to the south-east, through the land which lies between the Sir Daria and the Naryn, which is the most fertile part of the whole country, passing a small range of hills to the right, until I reached a little town near the Sir Daria, where I spent the night. We subsequently forded the Sir Daria in very large carts, and the next morning reached the town of Andijan, the second city of the

Khanate, having a population of about 40,000 or 50,000. It is tolerably well built, with a good bazaar, and a large number of serais and mosques, and has plenty of water through it. The Bek of the place is Muradin Bek, the eldest son of the Khan. He is rather more civilised than most of the others, because, some two years ago, he spent six weeks in Tashkend as a guest of the Russians, and has considerable sympathy with them. He is, in consequence, very much disliked by his father, who is very jealous of him, and afraid he is in some conspiracy to deprive him of his throne. He received me rather better, and permitted me to shake hands with him, and stand on the outside of the window, while he sat inside, and held some conversation with me. He even said two or three words in Russian. He presented me with a gown, as is the custom.

"After two or three days I went still to the south-east, about 40 miles, to the town of Ush, which was the extreme eastern limit of my journey. I was desirous of going to the east through the mountain-passes as far as Kashgar, which was only five days distant, but I was told that it would be utterly impossible to travel over the ground, that a rebellion of Khirgiz had broken out in the mountains, and, as they greatly valued my life, they would not dare to let me go. After considerable negociation, they finally told me that if I would sign a paper that, in case I was killed, the Russian Government would make no representation on the subject, they would let me go. I knew that that meant that they would kill me themselves, and naturally refused to sign the paper. I then wished to go south, thinking I might possibly go across the Alai range, and into the independent country of Karategin. No European has been to Karategin, and it was a country which excited a good deal of curiosity on my part. I had seen a great many of the inhabitants in Kokand, where a considerable number are employed in the custom-house,—thickset, stalwart men, speaking a dialect of Persian. Nearly all the people in the mountain-ranges south of Khojent, and even to the east of Tashkend, speak dialects of Persian, being evidently remnants of the ancient population, which have been driven further and further up into the mountains. I had heard from a Russian refugee in Kokand, that on the road to Karategin, in one of the passes, there were a number of inscriptions in a European language, and that excited my curiosity. This man read and wrote both Russian and the Toorki language, and insisted that the inscriptions were in a European language, and he had the idea that it was a souvenir left by some traveller who had passed over the route. If this is true, it would

be quite worthy the attention of any future traveller in that region. There are no remains in Ush which could possibly be said to be older than 150 years, and any story about Greek sculptures or Greek temples is certainly a myth. I finally obtained permission to go to Naugot, thinking that if I once reached the mountains I should get along perfectly well. I had not the slightest fear of the Khirgiz, for I know it is much easier to deal with them than with the more settled inhabitants. The Sirkar gave me a native mountain servant to go with me, and I had my interpreter and one servant beside. When I got to Orovan—a place not marked in the map—I found I was on the road which led directly to Margilan, and it was almost impossible to get from there to Naugot. I was very indignant at this, and the man confessed he had deceived me, but had done so by superior order, because my life was too valuable to be risked. I was therefore obliged to go directly to Margilan. On the road I met large bodies of troops which were being sent against the insurrectionists. The Bek of Margilan had left that place and gone to meet the Khan, so that I remained only one day at Margilan; a very pretty town, flat, with a good many gardens and trees, and a large number of mosques in a much more decorative style of architecture than is usual. From there I went to a small village on the edge of the waste, to which all the water has to be brought from Margilan; and thence passed through the stony waste till I reached Kokand.

The city of Kokand is comparatively modern, having been built within the last 100 years. It is nearly square, and contains, they told me, about 500 mosques, each one having 30 houses: this, giving five inhabitants—a very small number—to each house, would make the population about 75,000, which I should think was about correct. It is very full of gardens; but, owing to its being entirely flat, it does not present the same picturesque aspect that the town of Tashkend does, though the streets are wider, and the houses in general much better built. There are several large mosques; some holding from 300 to 400 mollahs, but architecturally of very slight importance. One of the new ones is faced with white tiles, and is rather pretty. The finest building is the fortress, which is really the palace of the Khan. It was built in 1852. It has turrets at the corners, and a large entrance in the middle. It is beautifully faced with arabesque green tiles, with large inscriptions from the Koran running round the cornice. I was not admitted to the palace, as several of the wives of the Khan were still there; but the Atalik, or first military officer of the country, showed me through the armoury and the mint. In this latter place they were not

coining money, but making silver ornaments for horse-trappings, as the Master of the Mint exercises at the same time the functions of Court Jeweller. One of the most amusing things in the armoury was the making a breech-loading cannon. There was a 12-pounder piece well under way, and the breech-loading apparatus seemed an improvement on a Russian design, but the cannon was not rifled, and the balls were round. At the muzzle, too, the cannon was rather larger than at the breech. At the same time I was shown four rifles. It seems that two had been stolen from Russian soldiers, and the whole productive force of the country had for two months been making copies. The rifles worked pretty well, but I could not imagine how they were going to make cartridges for them. They were also making some rockets, which really were very good. The bazaar at Kokand is by far the best built one that I saw in Central Asia. The streets all cross at right angles. There are many shops, built of burnt bricks, and the whole is covered by a roof.

"It is possible to walk over the whole bazaar, from one end to the other; and all the avenues leading to it are closed every night, and guarded by soldiers stationed there. I had occasion to see these men, who were stationed also at my own gates; and I found them very amusing, not only as to their uniform, but as to equipment. I could not help noticing that at least two words of command were English. One was 'Carry arms' and the other 'Orja arms,' which I suppose to be 'order' arms, as they brought their muskets down to the ground. A great many of these men were armed with wands or sticks, which made me think that possibly that might be an English innovation. The bazaar is the personal property of the Khan. Some years ago he took possession of all the bazaars, either paying small sums for them or else taking them without payment, saying that the former proprietors had enjoyed them a sufficient time, and now it was his turn. The revenues are considerable. If the Russians should take possession of Kokand, this no doubt would be of considerable advantage to the Treasury. In all the towns they now have the bazaars are owned by private persons, or belong to some mosque or school. The chief trade with Kokand is in cotton and silk. The total trade of Russia with Central Asia in 1867 was £2,500,000. In 1872 it was set down at £3,000,000, but as over £1,000,000 must be deducted from that sum for the trade of the Khirgiz on the steppes, the total trade would be only £1,600,000, which would show a falling off. The imports to Kokand in 1872 were £300,000, and the exports a little less than £200,000."

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure the meeting felt much obliged to Mr. Schuyler, who had told them a great deal about a country of which very little was known before. He hoped that he would publish an account of his journey, which would be of very general interest both in this country and in America.

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2. *Extracts of Letters from Members of Mr. Forsyth's Mission to Kashgar relating to the Geographical Results of the Mission.* With Remarks by Major-General Sir H. C. RAWLINSON, K.C.B., &c.

I PROPOSE to bring before the Meeting some of the Geographical results of Mr. Forsyth's Mission to the Ameer of Kashgar. So much has been written of late years on the subject of the country which used to be called Western China, but which is now better known as Eastern Turkestan, that I may presume you to be acquainted with its general features and history. You know, for instance, that it occupies the great interior basin of Central Asia, intermediate between Russia and British India, being bounded on the north by the Thian-Shan, or Celestial Mountains, and on the south by the Kuen Luen, or mountains of Little Thibet. The skirts of this basin bearing an alluvial deposit, and being watered by streams from the circumjacent mountains, are well cultivated and densely peopled; but the interior is a desert throughout, composed, for the most part, of a sandy waste, with forests of jungle along the river-beds. The people, who are descendants of the ancient Ouigours, are a fine, frank, hardy race; Mahommedans, but not bigoted, very friendly indeed to Europeans, and superior, according to the experience of our officers, to all other Asiatics with whom they had come in contact. Indeed, the pictures given by Mr. Forsyth and his officers of the hospitable and unassuming manners of the people of Yarkand and Kashgar, their industry, intelligence, probity, and activity both of mind and body, impress one most favourably after the accounts one generally has of the sloth, and dirt, and misery, and depravity of the East. This country maintained its independence from the time of Timour to the latter half of the last century, when it was overrun by the Chinese, in whose hands it remained, with some rare intervals of partial insurrection, until eleven or twelve years ago, when the united people rose in rebellion and drove out their Chinese oppressors, placing themselves under the rule of a certain Yacúb Beg, a Kokandí of Andiján, a soldier of fortune, who, having fled before the Russians, came upon the scene at this fortunate moment. Yacúb Beg, or the Ameer—as he is now called in virtue of a firman from the Sultan,—has proved himself a very wise and able leader. He has repressed brigandage, encouraged trade, raised a very