

[Gt. Britain Foreign Office.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS IN CENTRAL ASIA.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	India Office	Feb. 7, 1881	Incloses correspondence, arranged according to date, between the Russian authorities in Turkestan and the Ameer Shere Ali and Yakub Khan of Afghanistan from 1870 to 1879	1
2	To Earl of Dufferin	Aug. 28, 1880	Correspondence found at Cabul. Has communicated to Russian Ambassador	28
3	Mr. Plunkett!	Oct. 5,	Correspondence found at Cabul. Conversation with Baron Jomini. Instructions sent to General Kaufmann to abstain from holding any communication with the Ameer Abdur Rahman Khan..	29
4	To Mr. Plunkett	25,	Instructions sent to General Kaufmann. Conversation with Russian Ambassador	29
5	To Earl of Dufferin	Jan. 28, 1881	Correspondence found at Cabul. Conversation with Prince Lobanow, who denies employment of Russian Sarts by Ayoub Khan	29
6	"	Feb. 9,	Correspondence found at Cabul. Conversation with Russian Ambassador	30

FD 378
97
1881

Correspondence respecting Affairs in Central Asia.

No. 1.

Viscount Enfield to Lord Tenterden.—(Received February 7.)

My Lord,

India Office, February 7, 1881.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Hartington to forward herewith, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of correspondence between the Russian authorities in Turkestan and the late Ameer Shere Ali, of Cabul, and his Ministers, arranged in order of date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ENFIELD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

*Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated March 28, 1870.**

(Literal retranslation into English of the translation into Persian made at Cabul of the letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali.)

YOU have probably heard that your nephew, Abdoor Rahman Khan, who, a few years ago, was Ruler of Balkh and other parts of Afghanistan, has now arrived in Tashkend, and I, as a Vakeel on the part of the Russian Emperor, have given him permission to come into Tashkend, and due honour has been done to him. In order that I may not have misinterpreted the Sirdar's staying here to Afghans, I, from my customary honesty and sincerity, and out of regard to relations, think it necessary to express that I desire that unity may exist between Russian Turkestan and you.

The countries in Asia which are in the possession of the Russian Emperor have no limits that are at present in your possession. These limits are separated by the river of Bokhara, the Ameer of which place is Syud Muzufur Khan, who has concluded a Treaty with me, and who has been passing his days happily under my protection. It is necessary that no quarrel and disagreement should take place between me and you. Although we are distant neighbours, it is proper that we pass our days in friendship and pleasure. I had a desire for a long time that I might be a "wastah" (mediator) in the Kingdom of Afghanistan, not only because you are under the protection of the British Government, with whom we are also, you are aware, on friendly relations, but also because we did not see any mischievous interference on your part in the affairs of Bokhara. Afghanistan and Bokhara ought not to be in terms of disagreement with each other. It is proper for each party to act in accordance with his own ways, and not to care for the welfare or for the misfortune of his neighbour.

These considerations require this, that when Abdoor Rahman Khan made a request to come into Tashkend, I answered that "our Emperor, from his greatness, shows kindness to all, especially to you, as you are now unfortunate, but you should not hope to receive through me any assistance to wage war." I don't want that I should take part in his quarrel with you, because your behaviour has not been the cause of any complaint. I also hope that our old friendship and unity should continue to exist as before. For this reason I send you this letter. I shall be very glad to receive from you such a reply as may be conformable to my wish and to established usage regarding the (?) of Bokhara, Khiva, and other Ilaquas.

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 182.

(Literal Translation of the Persian Triplicate sent by General von Kaufmann.*)

*Translation of a Letter from the Russian Governor-General in Turkestan to His Highness Ameer Ali Khan, Ameer of the whole territory of Afghanistan.**

You must have been informed that Abdoor Rahman Khan, son of the late Ameer Afzul Khan, who formerly ruled the country of Balkh and all its cities, has now come into the country of Tashkend. I am a Vakeel and Ruler of this place on the part of the wealthy and powerful White Padshah. I have shown respect and regard to the above-mentioned personage. Do not misconstrue the fact of this Sirdar of the Afghans being in this place. Therefore I inform you by letter. I have written what is true and correct, what relation Russian Turkestan has with Afghanistan, which is now subject to your rule, and the regard which I have for you. The Emperor who has no limits of his own in Turkestan between the two exalted States of Afghanistan and the Russian Kings, Bokhara and enough (*lit*). The Ameer of that place, Syud Muzufur Khan, has concluded a Treaty of Peace, has thereby become a friend, and also has come and remained under the protection of Ameer Atour Azum (Emperor). This act cannot in any way cause enmity and misunderstanding between us and you. As we are distant neighbours of yours, permanent peace and friendship will be established between us and you. It is not my wish to meddle with the affairs of the State of Afghanistan. As you are under the protection of the British Government, it is known to you that our Emperor is a friend of the British Government. For this reason you have not now meddled with the affairs of Bokhara. Let there be not anything in common between Afghanistan and Bokhara; let the masters of both the countries pass their days in peace and tranquillity, and be ignorant and without care for what happens in the neighbour's country. When Abdoor Rahman Khan applied for leave by letter to come into Tashkend, I granted it to him. As our Emperor naturally gives protection to those who are subjected to misfortunes and troubles, I, before the said Abdoor Rahman's arrival here, informed him by letter that he should not ask for aid and help to wage war with you.

I do not at all wish to discontinue friendship with you, because as yet your acts have caused no displeasure to me. I earnestly hope that you will bear the same relation with me in perpetuity. For this reason I have sent a letter to you. When you receive this, you will, after understanding the above said contents properly, and regarding them as right, send me such an answer as may be in accordance with my wish, so that I may thereby be satisfied, and be obliged to you as well as be pleased with you. May your life be prolonged. For your honour and for the comfort of those needy men who depend upon you this letter is written.

Tashkend, March 28, 1870.

(Transcript of the Duplicate sent in English by General von Kaufmann.*)

To the Ameer of Cabul, Shere Ali Khan.

You probably will have heard that your nephew, Abdoor Rahman Khan, who a few years ago was Regent of Balkh and of other parts of Afghanistan, is just arrived in Tashkend, and that I, as Representative of my gracious Emperor, have allowed him an honourable hospitality. In order that the staying here of the above-mentioned Afghanistan Sirdar might not be erroneously interpreted by you, I suppose it necessary to explain to you, with my customary sincerity and veracity, my point of view concerning the relations I should like to see established between Russian Turkestan and you.

The Asiatic possessions of His Majesty the Emperor have no common limits with the country now submitted to your supremacy; they are separated by the Khanate of Bokhara, whose Ruler, the Ameer Seid Mosafar, having concluded a Treaty of Peace with Russia, stays now in friendly relations to us, and is enjoying the mighty protection of our great Emperor. Between us both there must not be any misunderstandings and vexations at all, and, though distant neighbours, we ought to live in friendship and harmony. I am quite far of longing for meddling with the interior affairs of Afghanistan, not only because you are under the protection of the British Government, with which, as you know, the Russian Government is in the best and most friendly relations, but also because I did not see any infraction from your part in the internal affairs of Bokhara. Afghanistan and Bokhara ought not to have any point of contact together; both of them must go their separate ways without caring for the welfare of the neighbour.

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 182.

These considerations influenced me, when, having received from Abdoor Rahman Khan the request of being admitted to Tashkend, I answered him that His Majesty the Emperor of Russia graciously affords hospitality to everybody, so much the more to an unfortunate, but that he must not in the least reckon on my interference in his quarrel with you, and not expect any assistance from our part. I should not like to be in discordance with you, because your behaviour gave no matter for complaints. I hope also that our mutual relations will remain the same, and therefore I send you this letter, and should be glad to receive from you the assurance that, on your part, the analogous principles of neutrality will be strictly observed concerning the khanates of Bokhara, Khiva, and other neighbours.

Tashkend, March 28, 1870.

The Turkestan Governor-General and Commander of the
Troops of the Turkestan Military Circle,
(Signed) VON KAUFMANN, *General, Aide-de-camp.*

Pour traduction conforme :
Le Conseiller d'Etat et Gentilhomme de la Chambre,
(Signé) C. STRUVE.

(Translation of Letter sent in Russian by General von Kaufmann.*)

A Son Altesse l'Émir,

Votre Altesse a probablement déjà entendu que votre neveu, le vénérable Abdool Rahman Khan, n'a jamais envahi Balkh et d'autres villes d'Afghan; il est arrivé il y a quelque temps à Tachkend, et moi, ici comme le Représentant de mon puissant Maître, je l'ai reçu avec honneur et plaisir.

Je ne désire pas que la résidence d'un Afghan Serdar soit mal compris de vous. Je le trouve nécessaire de vous exposer immédiatement dans cette lettre, avec une loyauté accoutumée et franche, ma vue concernant le Turkestan Russe avec votre puissance dans l'Afghanistan et ces régulations que je dirige dans les relations avec vous.

Les dominions du Czar Blanc dans le Turkestan et les terres aujourd'hui subordonnées à vous n'ont pas de communes frontières; les possessions du Khan de la Boukharie nous séparent; l'Emir Saïd Mouzaphar, le Souverain qui a juré la paix avec la Russie, est en amitié et sous la protection du grand Empereur de Toutes les Russies. Pour cela il ne peut avoir aucune attaque ni malentendu entre nous, et nous, quoique des voisins éloignés, nous pouvons et devons vivre en amitié et en accord. Je n'ai pas l'intention de me mêler des affaires intérieures de l'Afghanistan, parce que vous êtes sous la protection du Gouvernement Anglais, lequel, comme vous savez probablement, est en amitié et en accord avec l'administration du Czar Blanc, et pour cela vous de votre part ne devez vous mêler des affaires de Boukharie. L'Afghanistan et la Boukharie ne doivent avoir rien de commun entre eux, et chacun de ces royaumes doit vivre de sa propre vie.

Une pareille signification j'ai donné à Abdool Rahman Khan, quand celui-ci s'adressa à moi avec la supplication de le recevoir à Tachkend, parce que le grand Souverain ne refuse à personne l'hospitalité, surtout quand un homme est malheureux; et pour cela je l'ai accueilli aimablement, mais il ne compte nullement sur mon intervention dans sa querelle avec vous, et il n'en suit aucune assistance de notre côté. Je ne désire pas de me diverger de vous, parce que votre efficacité n'a donné aucun sujet de mécontentement.

Dans l'entière espérance que nos relations resteront ainsi dans le futur je vous écris cette lettre, et je serais très content si je reçois de vous l'assurance écrite que vous avez l'intention de vous tenir à mon programme.

Que le Dieu Suprême prolonge vos jours pour votre gloire et pour le bien-être du peuple.

Ville Tachkent, le 28 Mars, 1870.

Le Gouverneur-Général de Turkestan et le Commandant
Militaire du District de l'Armée,
(Signé) KAUFMANN, *le Général, Aide-de-camp.*

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 182.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated July 15, 1870.

(After compliments.)

BE it known to you that your two friendly letters on the same subject in the Russian, English, and Persian languages, dated Tashkend, the 28th March, 1870, corresponding to the 24th Zil Hijj 1286 H., reached me, the first through the officials of the King of Bokhara, and the second through the servants of the Mir of Samarkand, on Monday, the 14th Safar (16th May), and on Thursday, the 17th idem (19th May) respectively, and opened the doors of happiness and joy on the face of my hopes. I was extremely gratified at your promise that no officer of the Emperor of Russia will encroach overtly or covertly on the Afghan territory, nor will any arms or help be given to the enemies of Afghanistan. I have also, in consultation with the British Government, issued orders to my frontier officers to guard the border in every way, respect my authority, and abstain from interfering in the affairs of the territory and tribes that are outside the boundaries appertaining to, or under the protection of, Afghanistan. Also, my intention and object is that we should remain firm in the arrangement mentioned above, not only because that the Viceroy of India (between whose Sovereign and the Emperor of Russia great friendship exists) suggested the same (arrangements), but because I feel certain that it will conduce to the welfare of my country and to the comfort of my people. I trust you will always consider me desirous to hear the glad tidings of your good health.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated December 20, 1870.

I HAVE read with attention the friendly letter which I received from you at Tashkend on the 29th August of the present year. I have observed with pleasure that the contents of this letter, and the adoption of the resolution to which you have come with regard to your relations towards your neighbours, answer my expectation and naturally merit the approbation of my august master. Believe me, you will never have reason to regret your frank and kindly action towards the Russian Power, and with the protector of its territorial neighbours. I hope that time and circumstances will fortify the friendship between us.

It has long been shown by perpetual experiments that each discord, each act of hostility, never fails to lead nations into misery alone, while, on the contrary, peace and amicable relations between Sovereigns will advance their nations into a most flourishing condition.

For this reason my great master, who is always occupied with the prosperity of his subjects, desires (his servants) to live in peace and in harmony with the neighbouring people, not meddle in their internal affairs, and justly looks for the same frankness and friendly conduct on the part of the reigning Princes of other States.

I offer my prayers to God for your health, for your renown, and that He may cause you to guide your people with wisdom.

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated July 17, 1871.†

YOUR friendly letter, dated Tashkend, the 20th December, giving assurances of friendship between the Governments of Russia and Afghanistan, has reached me, and has served to afford me fresh joy and great pleasure. By it I have been more fully assured than before than the officers of the Russian Government cherish no other wish in their heart than to maintain peace and harmony with the neighbours, and not to meddle with their internal affairs; and further, that they will continue for ever to pursue such

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 190.

† Ibid., p. 193.

course. As to my part, I will act in the same way as I have communicated in the reply which I sent to your letter on Thursday, the 15th Rubee-oos-sanee, 1287 Hijree (15th July, 1870). In respect to the future, it is also my wish that there should occur nothing to weaken the ties of friendship subsisting between the two Governments, as on such friendship depend the peace and tranquillity of the people.

I hope that you will continue to consider me as ever anxious to hear of your welfare.

Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

*Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated October 28, 1871.**

AFTER presenting your Highness my friendly salutations, and expressing my good wishes, I beg to state that, while I was engaged in making arrangements for the countries which have been placed in my charge by our Great Emperor, your welcome letter, dated 28th Rubee-oos-Sanee, 1288 Hijree (17th July, 1871), reached Tashkend, whence it was sent to me at Kuldja without delay. I was at the time engaged in settling the affairs of Kuldja, the irregular proceedings of Abool Ala, Sultan of that country, having rendered it necessary for me again to assemble an army and capture his country. From the contents of your letter I have been gratified to learn that it is your wish to maintain friendship with Russia, as well as with other countries under its protection. If your officers would carry out strictly the orders issued by you not to interfere with the neighbouring country of Bokhara, our friendship would daily increase to the great benefit of the neighbouring people.

Such a state of things is entirely in accordance with the well-intentioned views expressed by our Great Emperor, and would also be in harmony with the good understanding that exists between Russia and the English Government. The Ameer of Bokhara, a firm friend and ally of Russia, has sent intelligence that Mirza Mahomed Tahir has been deputed to that place (Bokhara) as an Envoy from Cabul. Among other tidings brought by the said Envoy is the intelligence that dissensions that had hitherto existed among the Afghans have been brought to an end. It has also been ascertained from the Envoy that your eldest son, Mahomed Yakoob Khan, has sought a reconciliation with you. If this is actually the case I congratulate you on the happy termination of this miserable business. My sympathies have been with you throughout the affair, since the right was on your side; for God favours not a son who rebels against his father, nor do men wish success to such a one.

Inclosure 6 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated May 19, 1872.†

(After compliments.)

YOUR friendly letter, dated the 28th October, 1871, which was a reply to mine of the 28th Rubbee-oos-sanee, 1288 A.H. (17th July, 1871), has duly reached me, and afforded me much gratification. It has given me great pleasure to hear of the victories of the Russian arms at Kuldja, intelligence of which was communicated in your friendly letter.

Your congratulations regarding the reconciliation of Mahomed Yakoob afford a proof of the friendly feeling that exists between the two Governments.

As regards the preservation of the Bokhara boundary, please God there will be no deviation from the arrangements mentioned in the friendly letter, dated the 15th Rubbee-oos-sanee, 1287 A.H. (15th July, 1870). The situation there is still the same.

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 192.

† *Ibid.*, p. 195.

Inclosure 7 in No. 1.

*Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated February 1872.**

(After compliments.)

INFORMATION has lately been received from St. Petersburg to the effect that your nephew, Sekunder Khan, who, as you know, has been for four years in the service of our Emperor, has now quitted the Imperial service, and has left for his native country, travelling through England and Hindustan. After paying his respects to you, his Sovereign, he hopes to be reinstated in his former position, and to be put in possession of his ancestral possessions; also to have the honour of entering your Highness' service. I make this friendly representation of your nephew's intentions, and trust your Highness will receive him according to his deserts, and regard him with your Royal favour. For three years he has resided at our capital, and rendered honourable service to our Emperor. He will, therefore, doubtless serve your Highness with the same devotion.

Actuated by feelings of friendship, I informed your Highness by letter, four months ago, of the capture by the Russian army of the town and dependencies of Kuldja, but have as yet received no reply. I fear, therefore, that from some cause or other my letter may not have reached you.

Trusting you will favour me with accounts of your welfare, I commend you to the protection of God.

The Russian original of this is in my handwriting.

Inclosure 8 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated July 20, 1872.†

(After titles, compliments, &c.)

YOUR kind despatch of "Febral" 1872, every letter and word of which expressed tokens or desire for increasing and confirming the sincere friendship existing between us, reached me in a happy and gratifying time on 3rd "Rabi-ool-Sanee" (corresponding to the 10th June, 1872), and tended to the confirmation of the ties of our mutual friendship and unity. I mastered the contents of the few lines of your letter, inviting me to send a reply to your friendly communication of the 28th October, 1871, and giving some information regarding Sirdar Sekunder Khan, and have to state that the reply to your "murasila" in question was forwarded to you some days before the receipt of your despatch of Febral 1872, *i.e.*, on the 10th Rabee-ool-Awul (corresponding to the 19th May, 1872); I conclude that you must have received it ere this. I hope that you will always consider me desirous of the firmness of friendly relations and cordiality.

Inclosure 9 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated June 28, 1872.‡

AFTER wishing the friendship and welfare of your Highness.

Your letter dated the 10th of Rubee-ul-Awul, 1289 (corresponding to the 7th May, 1872, Russian year), having been received, I have been happy to become acquainted with your good health. I have derived boundless delight from the receipt of your letter. The advantages of the interchange of letters are first, that the circumstance argues existence of mutual good feeling; next, it becomes the cause of strengthening reciprocal friendship, and the respective subjects of both parties becoming comfortable, it indicates the preservation of reciprocal engagements up to date.

Your Highness has mentioned the lands forming the boundary between yourself and Bokhara. This matter was placed and confirmed on its former footing on receipt of your former letter. God willing, it is hoped that no change will take place in this. I trust

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 194.

† *Ibid.*, p. 196.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 198.

that the old status will be maintained in perpetuity, for the slightest changes causing displeasure to both parties destroys manifestly the comforts of both.

And let it not be concealed that before the receipt of your reply to my letter, about four months ago, Pod Folkonik Sekunder Khan, your "jen," came from St. Petersburg really with the intention of going to see you. I gave a letter to him, and have sent it by the hand of Mahamud Jan, a servant of his, to you. It is hoped that he has delivered it.

Regarding you as my friend and neighbour, I inform you that the people in the territories entrusted to my charge by the great Emperor, my Sovereign, are all comfortable. At the present time perfect friendship and amity exists between ourselves and all our neighbours. From the bottom of my heart, and in perfect sincerity, I desire that God may preserve you also in comfort, and I sincerely believe you also to be my friend.

Your wisdom and sagacity will doubtless have taught you by the study of history, that the Great God wishes the King to rule who, preserving his subjects in comfort, maintains friendship with his neighbours.

May God preserve you in health and safety, during years innumerable, and believe me that I am anxious to see friendship maintained between us.

The original letter was signed at Tashkend on the 16th June, 1872 (Russian year), and 23rd of Rubius-Sani, 1829, of the Mahommedan era, by the Gubernator of Turkestan, General-Adjutant von Kaufmann, and the signature is witnessed by me—Islateki Savepuk General Istrodc.

Inclosure 10 in No. 1.

*Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated August 12, 1872.**

BEFORE my leaving the country of Tashkend, your Highness' welcome and friendly letter, dated 13th Jumadi-ool-awul, 1289 H. (20th July, 1872), reached me, and the receipt of this, your exalted communication, gave me great satisfaction. I am now ready to start for St. Petersburg for the purpose of communicating to my Imperial master the state of affairs of the countries which His Imperial Majesty has entrusted to me, and also the circumstances connected with those territories of the Khans which are situated in the neighbourhood of our possessions. I do not wish that the bearer of your letter should go away without a letter in answer to yours. Whatever I wrote to say in my former letter I repeat in my present communication, that I cherish no other wish in my heart than that for the tranquillity and repose of my neighbours, inasmuch as such desire accords with the disposition of my Emperor. I am more satisfied because your Highness agrees to follow the same course. I consider it my pleasant duty to bring this commendable intention of your Highness to my Imperial master.

I hope that your Highness will never afterwards allow any change to take place in this laudable course. May God grant you health and happiness! It is my constant prayer to the Almighty that all His creatures may live in peace and tranquillity.

Inclosure 11 in No. 1.

Letter to Governor of Balkh, dated August 14, 1872.

AFTER expressions of friendship I beg to state that Ahmed Naib, whom you deputed, having left Balkh, arrived in the country of Tashkend on the 15th,† and delivered to the Governor-General and the chief officer of Turkestan the letter from Ameer Shere Ali Khan, intimating his intention to maintain friendly relations with all. The Governor-General having been gratified with the receipt of the above letter, wrote, agreeably to the requirements of time, a hasty reply, made it over to the said Ahmed Naib, and sent him to you to Balkh. The Governor-General hopes that, on the arrival of the letter, you will forward it to the Ameer of Cabul. It is now three days since the Governor-General has started from this place for St. Petersburg, for the purpose of paying a visit to the Great Emperor. He has commanded me to communicate to you his prayer that the grace of God may be with you, and to request that you will, without loss of time, forward the above letter to the Ameer. Further, it is the wish of the Governor-General that the friendly

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 201.
[306]

† ? July.

relations subsisting between the Russians and the Afghans should become more firm and consolidated daily, but the maintenance of such friendly relations depends on the peace and tranquillity of the neighbouring countries. Mahomed Ali Khan, you are a respectable servant of the Ameer, and you are carrying out his intention. May you, please God, continue to follow this laudable course.

It is my prayer to the Almighty that you may continue to enjoy health and happiness.

Inclosure 12 in No. 1.

*Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated November 16, 1873.**

I RECEIVED your kind and friendly letter, dated the 12th August 1872, on 22nd idem, and was extremely gratified with its contents. The cause of the delay of a few months in the dispatch of a reply to it is evident, viz., first you went to St. Petersburg, and afterwards you were occupied in the Kharism expedition. I hope you have now returned in health and comfort to Tashkend, and I have, therefore, considered it advisable to take the opportunity of sending a reply to your murasila. I am much gratified with the contents of your letter, explaining that His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia is anxious for the peace and welfare of neighbouring States, and that you have considered it one of your most pleasing duties to report to His Majesty that you have had every reason to be satisfied with me, and that I have upheld the friendship existing between us. It is as evident as daylight that at present His Majesty is a great and powerful monarch, and it is, therefore, becoming that neighbouring States should enjoy tranquillity and convenience. This policy will tend to confirm the friendship existing between His Majesty and these States. I have expressed my gratification in my murasila dated the 15th "Rabius-sani," 1287 (15th July, 1870), written in reply to your murasila of the 28th March, 1870 (24th Zilhej, 1286), containing your promise that no Russian officer will interfere with the affairs of Afghanistan, and that no assistance or advice will be given to the enemies of that kingdom which may be turned against it. I still entertain the hope that by the grace of God the friendship existing between us will not be disturbed, and that the neighbouring States will be allowed to enjoy peace.

My attention will always be devoted to this point.

I hope you will continue to inform me of your health, &c.

Inclosure 13 in No. 1.

Letter from General Kolpakovski to Shere Ali, dated December 6, 1873.†

AFTER expressions of the best wishes, the contents of the letter are as follows:—

Your Eminence's letter of the 25th day of Ramazan, of the year 1290 (16th November, 1873), and addressed to the Governor-General, General Aide-de-camp von Kaufmann, has been duly and opportunely (in a good hour) received by me.

On his return from the glorious Khivan campaign the High Governor-General left for St. Petersburg, in order to report to His Majesty the Emperor on the condition of affairs in this province.

Being charged with the government of Turkestan during the absence of his Excellency, I consider it my duty to express to you my satisfaction as regards the feelings of friendship and devotion which you set forth in your letter.

In dispatching the same to the High Governor-General for his favourable consideration, I entertain the hope that he will not refuse your request, and that he will represent to His Majesty the Emperor your conscientious mode of action, and your endeavour to become worthy of the grace of my august Master.

I fully share your opinion that peace and tranquillity serve to develop the welfare of a State, and to render durable friendly relations existing between two Powers.

Continue to follow the same straight road along which you have hitherto gone, and

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 8.

† Ibid., p. 16.

you will become convinced that it is the right and advantageous road as regards both yourself and the welfare of your people.

I wish you health, welfare, and good fortune in all your undertakings.

Inclosure 14 in No. 1.

*Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated December 1, 1873.**

ACCOMPANIED by troops I left Tashkend for Khiva. Your Highness may have heard that the Khan of Khiva had commenced committing unjustifiable and unlawful acts, whereupon His Majesty the Emperor of Russia directed me to go to Khiva with a view to compel him by force of arms to act according to law. This undertaking was attended with full success. Having obtained a victory over the army of Khiva, I conquered the country. Afterwards the Khan of Khiva and his dependents surrendered themselves to the favour of His Majesty the Emperor. At present peace has been established in the country. It is not the wish of His Imperial Majesty to add territories to his extensive Empire. For this reason, by order of His Majesty, the country of Khiva has been allowed to remain as an independent territory as before, and I have placed Syud Mahomed Ruheem Khan on his own guddee and in possession of his ancestral dominions. Now the said Khan has agreed to fulfil certain conditions, and has also engaged to observe certain conditions for the preservation of peace and tranquillity in the country, and for the maintenance of friendship with the neighbours. After the restoration of his territory, His Majesty the Emperor ordered the Khan to set at liberty all the slaves. The Khan then issued a Proclamation prohibiting a slave trade, as this act was against law. The order of the Khan on the subject is now being carried out. Among the slaves released there are 400 Afghans who were collected in this territory. They want to go back to their country, some through Bokhara, some through Balkh, and some through Maimena. As your Highness is our friend, I consider it proper to bring this event to your notice. With a view to the promotion of the welfare of your Highness' subjects, may the Almighty God prolong your life.

Inclosure 15 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated January 25, 1874.

(After compliments.)

I BEG to inform you that your friendly letter, containing an account of the conquest of Khiva, reached me on the 10th Shawal, 1290 H. (1st December, 1873).†

I have mastered its contents from the beginning to the end. As it contained the news of your good health, it opened the doors of happiness and joy on the face of my hopes. I have been fully informed of what you wrote in your letter, namely, that 400 of my subjects, who have been released (from the Turkomans) will be passing through Balkh and Maimena. I hope you will always consider me desirous to hear of your welfare.

Inclosure 16 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated January 25, 1874.

(After compliments.)

THE event that has recently occurred here is that, in conformity with the approved custom of the kings of antiquity, and with a view to promote the welfare of the subjects of the God-granted Government of Afghanistan, I nominated, with the unanimous consent of the Chiefs of Afghanistan, my beloved son, Sirdar Abdulla Jan, as my heir-apparent, on the first day of the Ramazan festival, viz., Saturday, the 1st Shawal,

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 10.

† NOTE.—This date cannot be correct, as the letter was written on the 1st December, 1873.

1290 H. (23rd November, 1873), so that after my death he should bear the heavy burthen of the Empire, and assume charge both of the country and the army. The whole Mussulman population of Afghanistan and all the followers of the best of mankind (Prophet) opened their lips to invoke blessings on my above-named son, and agreed to tender their allegiance to him, and acknowledge him as their sole ruler and the Wali (King) of all Afghanistan. Whereas friendly relations subsist between this God-granted Government and the illustrious Government of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, I have written this to inform you of this happy event. I trust you will always consider me desirous to hear of your welfare.

Inclosure 17 in No. 1.

*Letter from General Kolpakovski to Shere Ali, dated February 25, 1874.**

THE murasilas forwarded by your Highness on the 6th Zilhij, 1290 (25th January, 1874), to the address of the Gubernator von Kaufmann reached me, but, as he is still at St. Petersburg, I will forward them to him without delay. As for the present his duties are entrusted to me by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, I have the honour to send replies to these communications. In your murasila of 6th Zilhij you sent information that you had nominated your son, Sirdar Abdulla Jan, as your heir-apparent; I congratulate you on this selection. Such nominations tend to the comfort and tranquillity of the kingdom. I wish perpetual possession of your kingdom by you and your heirs, and hope that after your death Sirdar Abdulla Jan will follow your example and make himself an ally and a friend of the Emperor. Your Highness is aware of the friendly relations which hitherto existed between the English and Russian Governments, but lately these relations have been confirmed by an alliance between the Rulers of these two kingdoms.

The daughter of the Emperor has been married to the second son of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Victoria. I send this happy information to your Highness on account of the friendship existing between your Highness and the Russian Government, and hope that you will consider this relationship advantageous to our friendship with the English Government, who are favourably disposed to you. May God be your protector under all circumstances and keep you happy.

Inclosure 18 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated July 12, 1875.†

(After titles, compliments, &c.)

BY order of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, I stopped for about one half year at St. Petersburg to settle some matters of this country (viz., Russian Turkestan). Now by command of him (the Emperor) I have returned to Tashkend, and consider it advisable (*lit.* a friendly trouble) to inform your Highness of my arrival. During my sojourn at St. Petersburg I was gratified with the receipt of two friendly communications from you. In one of these murasilas you mentioned the appointment of one of your sons, Sirdar Abdulla Jan, as your heir-apparent. I hope that the [A] chain of friendship existing between Russia and Afghanistan will in future increase and become firm, owing to the recent alliance between the Emperor of Russia and the Queen of England. This (alliance) has tended to the fulfilment of the best wishes of the two families, and I doubt not that this alliance of the two Powers will be an omen (*lit.* a mark or sign) for those countries (the people of) which under the protection of the Emperor of Russia and the Queen of England live in great peace and comfort. [B] May God save you for the sake of your dignity and the comfort of (your) people! And may you live long and enjoy happiness!

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 15.

† *Ibid.*, p. 65.

Inclosure 19 in No. 1.

*Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated September 19, 1875.**

I RECEIVED your friendly letter of 8th Jamadi-ul-Sani (12th July, 1875), in reply to my two murasilas by hand of your Envoy Aishan Khwaja Bazurg, and was highly gratified with its contents, from which it appeared that you had returned from St. Petersburg to Tashkend, and in which you gave happy news of the confirmation of the friendship existing between Afghanistan and Russia. By the grace of God, nothing contrary to the said friendship shall take place on my part, and the dispatch of friendly communications should be considered one of the principles of our friendship. I am gratified with the news contained in the last paragraph of your letter regarding the confirmation of the alliance of the (two) Great Powers (viz., Russia and England), as this alliance will increase the comfort and security of the creatures of God ("Khalk-ula"). Continue to afford me happiness by giving information as to your health, &c.

 Inclosure 20 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated October 29 (10th November), 1875.†

YOUR friendly murasila of the 19th September, 1875, reached me at Khojend. You must have heard that three months before its arrival I had been deputed by the Emperor with troops to quell the disturbances raised in Khokand. These disturbances took place on the 1st Rajab (3rd August, 1875), and Khudayar Khan, the Ruler, having fled (from Khokand) took refuge in Russian Turkestan. I was obliged to proceed against Khokand with troops. I defeated Kipchak, Kirghiz, and Khokand rebels near the Fort of Makhram, and took possession of the Khokand city (where no fighting took place), and appointed the eldest son of Khudayar Khan, viz., Nasrudin Beg, to the Chiefship. His Chiefship was previously accepted by Moollas and other people, but they subsequently forced him to become an enemy of the Russian Government. Having entered into negotiations with him, I returned to Namangan, viâ the right bank of the Sir, and to avoid future difficulties, posted some troops there. After a few days, I was informed that disturbances had again been raised in Khokand, and that the young Chief had taken flight to our territory. Now I have posted troops at Namangan and other frontier cities of Khokand, and have quelled the disturbances and afforded comfort to the people.

Through real friendship I have given you an account of the Khokand expedition. I hope that the chain of friendship existing between Russia and Afghanistan will daily increase and remain always firm. I desire your health and safety. May your success increase in all your affairs and actions.

 Inclosure 21 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated February 3, 1876.‡

YOUR friendly letter of the 27th October (10th November), 1875, corresponding with the 11th Shawal, 1292 Hijree, giving an account of subjugation of Khokand, reached me in good time on the 28th Zul Hij, 1292 Hijree (26th January, 1876), and I have noted its contents, which tend to promote friendship. The narrative given by you of the mustering of Kipchak and Kirghiz tribes and Khokandis, of the appointment of Nasiruddin, son of Khudayar Khan (Chief) of Khokand, of his falling into difficulties and taking refuge under the mighty power of Russia, and of your deputing an army towards Namangan and the frontier of Khokand, and thereby restoring peace among the Russian subjects, &c., has impressed my heart. I strongly hope that, if God pleases, nothing will interfere with the progress of friendship between Russia and Afghanistan.

The favour of your continuing to write to me about your good health is requested.

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 67.

‡ Ibid., p. 73.

† Ibid., p. 71.

Inclosure 22 in No. 1.

*Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated — February, 1870.**

YOUR Highness may have heard that some time ago (*lit.* in these days) some evil-disposed persons persuaded (*lit.* commanded) the people of Khokand with a view to gaining their (own) object, and considered it advantageous to endeavour to promote the same object, and that consequently in the territory of Khokand several sad and dangerous (mohlik) occurrences took place.

My Lord (*lit.* Oh exalted Dignity!), I have considered it useless to give a full detailed account of these (occurrences) in this despatch, but it is most important to communicate them (to you), otherwise it would be contrary to the friendship existing between Russia and Afghanistan (*lit.* also the contents of this letter would have been somewhat repugnant). Consequently, I have deemed it incumbent on me to give in this murasila, in continuation of previous murasilas, a brief account of the occurrences in Khokand and of the manner in which they terminated.

Last year, in the month of "Ayeedul," corresponding with Jamadiul Sani,† the people of Kipchak and Kirghiz tribes instigated and persuaded the people of Khokand to revolt, and their Sirdars (Headmen), Isa Aulia, Abdul Rahman Aftabchi, and other conceited persons, adopted measures against their (Khokandis) lawful Khan and expelled him from his country towards our dominions to seek shelter. At that time our agents, armed with good offices, had gone to the people of Khokand, and the Khan took refuge and came with them (the agents) to our territory.

As soon as Khuda Yar Khan reached here, an agent of the head of the rebels arrived at Tashkend from Khokand with all speed with a letter to the Governor-General (meaning General von Kaufmann), stating that all the people (in Khokand) had rebelled against Khuda Yar Khan in consequence of his oppression and deviation from the (Mahomedan) law, and had driven him from their country, and that they had desired Nasiruddin Khan, the legitimate heir to the Chiefship, to become their Khan. . . . General von Kaufmann most kindly accorded his consent (to their proposal), and sent a letter to the new Khan, Nasiruddin Khan, to effect that His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia was prepared to agree to his Khanship; but his agreement depended on the fulfilment of certain engagements of the people of Khokand, though it was understood that those engagements did not differ from the (contents of the) Treaty with Khuda Yar Khan.

The Russian Government felt anxiety as to whether the Sirdars of the rebels would accept (*i.e.*, obey) the new Ruler (Nasiruddin) and would exercise no oppression over the people, show ability and excellence in administration, and make endeavours towards peace and comfort, and after acknowledging the authority of their great neighbours, the Russians, abstain (*lit.* forget) from seeking their own interest and gains, *i.e.*, from deposing the Khan accepted by the Russians, and would thus gain the good-will of Von Kaufmann. The next occurrence proved that the deputation of the above agent to Tashkend was only a stratagem and to gain time; they disregarded the kindness of General von Kaufmann, and their coming as Representatives into the Russian possessions was a mere stratagem. When their agents were at Tashkend, they gave trouble to the people of Khokand in coming to our dominions, so much so, that they told them that the Russians exercise great oppression over the Mahomedans. Having become enemies of the Russians they endeavour to kindle fire (of insurrection) in our subjects of (?) therefore they sent invitations and letters to the Mahomedans of Khojend, Tashkend, and other border territories to join in disturbances. Before their agents had left our territory (*lit.* whether they had left or not), crowds of people of Khokand and Khojend, Karma, and Arp-tazan collected in Khojend Naloo and "Kari-ablik." We repulsed these people at once; still they succeeded in killing in a most brutal manner some of the residents of Alsatna, *i.e.*, Rahats and two Karkhanas and some cartmen, and in taking prisoner some travellers and Russians.

The Russian authorities lost no time (*lit.* were not negligent) in defence; the Governor-General collected troops at once in Killa Mahram and repulsed the Khokand rebels, and this victory was so successful that it became impossible for them to regather. Nasiruddin Khan acknowledged that it was vain and puerile on his part to oppose the Russians, and having expressed repentance declared himself an ally (*lit.* his submission) of the Governor-General, and in company with the rebels hastened to meet him, and solicited him to restore his Khanship to him permanently. He (the Governor-General) considered the offence of the Khan and the people of Khokand somewhat light, and thought that the people of Khokand were innocent and the Sirdars evil wishers; then the people of

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 77.

† July.

Khokand and the Sirdars came and were made to think over and understand their interests (*lit.* discriminate between gain and loss). Then the Governor-General of Turkestan, *i.e.*, Von Kaufmann, made over management of the territories of the Khan to him (the Khan), and reinstated him in the Chiefship permanently, and forgave the faults of the Sirdars and rebels. . . . As punishment to the Khan and his officers, the territory of Namangan lying between the right bank of the River Sir and the point where the River Narin falls into the River Sir, was annexed to Russian possessions. As soon as, according to our new Treaty with Nasiruddin Khan, our troops vacated Khokand, disturbances took place in Khokand, at the instigation of Abdul Rahman Aftabchi. Like his father, Khuda Yar, Nasiruddin fled from Khokand, and was obliged to seek refuge under us; then the people of Khokand made Faulad Khan, a man of low family (*lit.* of unknown birth), their Khan; but he could not govern them, owing to his being destitute of common sense, sound judgment, and ability, and talent. He, in the commencement of his rule, caused brutal executions in Khokand, and killed a large number of good men, as well as all the survivors of Khuda Yar Khan, such as his sons, grandsons, &c. He attempted to try his fortune in opposing us, and to recover Namangan, and even to drive us out from Tashkend. For this purpose, with the aid and at the instigation of Abdul Rahman Aftabchi, he collected a great number of people in Andejan to attack Namangan. The Governor-General sent General Tor Daski (?) from Namangan, and he got possession of Andejan, and Faulad Khan and Abdul Rahman took to flight. The General Tor Daski considered the punishment sufficient, and by order of the Governor he abstained from ordering a general slaughter in Andejan, and returned to Namangan; had Faulad Khan, Abdul Rahman, and their advisers and councillors been sensible and experienced persons, the above punishment would have been sufficient for them, and instead of adopting lengthy operations and risking their lives, they would have tendered apology and allegiance, but as they did not possess such sense they again raised disturbances in Namangan. As God has given us strength, and as He helps all true and just undertakings, General Skobelev, after quelling the disturbances raised in Namangan and punishing his subjects, suitably attacked Faulad Khan and Abdul Rahman Aftabchi several times, demolished several large buildings (perhaps forts or entrenchments are meant) and took possession of Andejan; then severe fighting took place in Aska, and Faulad Beg was forced to fly towards Karatagin. Abdul Rahman recovered his senses (*lit.* his eyes were opened) and confessed that it was most difficult and impossible (for him) to succeed in his hostilities with the Russians, and tendered voluntary submission and begged pardon. He was followed by the head Sirdar of Khokand rebels, who came into Major-General Skobelev and repented his actions, and begged for forgiveness. After more than six months the people of Khokand, who were in a very distressed condition, felt inclined to make Nasiruddin Khan their Khan. He was at the time in Killa Mahram, and, finding his people in straits, he left for Khokand; before he had arrived at that place the Kipchaks and Kirghiz collected a large body of people and severely opposed him (several of his followers were taken prisoners), and those who escaped returned to Killa Mahram. Dissension exists amongst the people of Khokand, and in consequence of this ill-feeling some desired to appoint Nasiruddin, some Faulad Khan, and others some dissolute person (or worthless fellow), Aubash, as their Khan. The majority of the people, however, expressed their wish for assistance from the Russians; with this view the people of Khokand, Marghinan, Osh, and Isfara, and the agents of other provinces, waited on Major-General Skobelev, and intimated their repentance at the enmity towards the Russians, and their inability to oppose them (the Russians), and expressed their wish for an amicable settlement of matters. They acknowledged their weakness, and begged for peace for their countrymen. They also made confessions of allegiance and submission, and brought letters from their countrymen to effect, "We have submitted ourselves to the Emperor, their submission may be accepted."

* * * * *

This petition was accepted. The Emperor could adopt no other mode to restore peace and comfort to the people (of Khokand), because Nasiruddin was twice appointed Khan of his hereditary country, but he was expelled on both occasions towards Russian Turkestan (by his people). His Imperial Majesty considered it safer to keep these people under his own control with regard to their circumstances, and he therefore, on this (last) occasion approved of their submission. Their territory (*lit.* lands) was annexed to Russian possessions, the provinces included in the Khanship of Khokand were denominated Ublus Farghana. I intimate these events and the policy of the Emperor to your Highness, and also state that the Emperor ordered me to take possession of (*lit.* make submit) all the territories under the (late) Khan of Khokand. On receipt of this order I left with all speed next day, and reached the Ublus of Farghana; then I made over (the management of) Ublus-nai on the Sir (Darya) to Governor-General of Turkestan and Lieutenant-General

Golovachef. I beg to add, as a supplement to this letter, that the Russian Government is bound (*lit.* entrusted) to deal with friendship and peace in all affairs with their neighbours who govern and rule countries in the East independently (*lit.* permanently), and for this reason Russia abstains (*lit.* silent) from taking possession of them (countries), though on the present occasion we have been constrained to annex Khokand to Russian possessions; in reality this annexation has not been effected for the interests of Russia, but at the request of the people of Khokand, merely to afford them tranquillity. As on account of these evil habits and intentions old-standing dissension existed amongst these people, as appears from the history of their country, and they could never attain to tranquillity under a native Government, or till they accepted a powerful Ruler and Government, such a Ruler as the Emperor of Russia. I indulge in the hope that my unchanging friendship and regard may be accepted by your Highness.

Written at Tashkend, in the month of Moharram 1293 Hijr (1876), month of Febral (February). Written in Russian by General Gubernator, Turkestan, Adjutant von Kaufmann, Lieutenant-General Kolpakovski (?).

Inclosure 23 in No. 1.

*Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated August 27, 1876.**

YOUR murasila, dated Mohurram (February), anent Khokand matters, which you sent from Tashkend by hand of Mirza Abdul Karim Khan, reached me at Cabul in Jamadi-ul-awal (June), and I have mastered its contents. If those persons who are in the neighbourhood or propinquity of great and powerful States, and for whom it is easy and feasible to undertake certain affairs in their country or city according to their capabilities and the customs and usages of that country or city, maintain (friendly) relations with (those) States, undoubtedly it is not politic or advisable that they should deviate from such relations. But as the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor is great and powerful, and as it is customary for its neighbours and the people in its adjacent territories to expect kindness and rectitude from it, if such great and noted Government shows kindness and mercy to the people in its neighbouring or adjoining territories, certainly it will tend to the encouragement (*lit.* hopes) of neighbours, and the comfort of the people of God. Continue to afford me happiness by informing me of your health, &c.

Inclosure 24 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated October 1, 1876.

I RECEIVED your murasila of 7th Shaban (27th August, 1876) in a happy time, and was highly gratified with its contents, and with your kindness and affection. Your observations in your murasila that "if those persons who are in the neighbourhood or propinquity of great and powerful States, and for whom it is easy and feasible to undertake certain affairs in their country or city according to their capabilities and the customs and usages of that country or city, maintain (friendly) relations with (those) States," show that your Highness fully knows and understands the rules of friendship existing between the Governments alluded to (by you). This friendship should not, however, be advantageous to one Power alone, or one tribe or one party alone, but to (several) States, or (in fact) to the people of the whole world. Should neighbouring States act on this principle or rule, no ill-feeling will ever spring up between them. The confidence which we have reposed in one another will, I hope, make the friendship existing between Russia and Afghanistan firm. Under all circumstances, I pray that God may protect you and keep you safe and healthy.

* Already laid in "Central Asia No. 1 (1878)," p. 88.

Inclosure 25 in No. 1.

*Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated July 6, 1876.**

TO discuss about some important Turkestan matters I was summoned by the Emperor, and after remaining about six months at St. Petersburg, returned to Tashkend. I have considered it advisable to send this information to you. The friendship existing between you and the Russian Government and between you and me has been promoted. I pray God for your (long) life. Your rectitude will tend to the comfort and happiness of the subjects (of the Government of Russia and Afghanistan).

Inclosure 26 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated November 23, 1876.

(After compliments.)

YOUR Turki murasila, dated the 13th Jamadi-ul-Sani 1293 H. (the 6th July, 1876), sent from Tashkend by hand of Mirza Muhammad Yusuf Khan, reached me on the 7th Shaban 1293 H. (27th August, 1876). It gave assurances of the firm and everlasting friendship between Russia and Afghanistan, and afforded me great happiness and pleasure. I have been gratified to learn that you have comfortably returned to Tashkend from St. Petersburg from the Emperor. God willing, no efforts will be spared by me in the consolidation and prolongation of the friendship existing between us, and I hope that our friendly relations will continue to remain on a perfect and most solid footing. Continue to gratify me by informing me of your health.

Inclosure 27 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated October 18, 1877.

(After compliments.)

YOUR friendly letter, dated the 17th September (1st October), corresponding to 12th Ramazan 1293 H., which you sent by the hands of Mulla Saifullah, reached me on Wednesday, the 5th Zil-kada 1293 H. (22nd November, 1876). I was greatly gratified to hear the glad tidings of your good health. Your agent, Rajab Ali Khan, has just this moment delivered your friendly letter, asking me the cause of my detaining Mulla Saifullah so long. The reason why I detained him the first five days was that it was awfully cold when he arrived here; and afterwards he fell ill, and consequently I could not dismiss him. You may rest assured that my object in detaining him was only to give him rest and show him hospitality. Always consider me desirous of hearing the news of your good health.

Inclosure 28 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated April 9, 1878.

(After compliments.)

YOUR friendly letter, dated the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ th August, 1877, corresponding to the 19th Shaban, 1294 H., which you sent by the hands of Rajab Ali Khan, has reached me. As it contained the news of your good health, it opened the doors of extreme delight to the face of my heart, full of affection. Whereas your agent has been given leave to depart, I have written you this friendly epistle. I hope that you, in accordance with the forms of concord and friendship, will always gratify me with the happy news of your good health.

Inclosure 29 in No. 1.

Reply by Wazir Shah Muhammed to Letter from the Governor of Katti-Kurghan to Arsalā Khan, Afghan Foreign Minister, dated about April 1878.

(After compliments.)

I HAVE received your cordial letter just at this auspicious moment, when your agent, Rajab Ali Khan, has had the honour of waiting upon His Highness the Ameer. Its contents impart the expressions of kindness and favour from His Imperial Majesty the Czar to His Highness the Ameer. You write that His Majesty the Emperor has expressed a wish to cultivate friendly relations with His Highness the Ameer Shere Ali Khan. There is no doubt that the enlightened heart of His Majesty, owing to his greatness and grandeur, anxiously wishes to see his neighbours happy and comfortable; and why should it not be so, when it is a thing which adds grace to and becomes his magnanimity? It is also the wish of His Highness the Ameer to see his neighbours and the subjects of the two States happy and comfortable.

 Inclosure 30 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated June 1878.

BE it known to you that in these days the relations between the British Government and ours with regard to your kingdom require deep consideration. As I am unable to communicate my opinion verbally to you I have deputed my agent, Major-General Stolieteff. This gentleman is a near friend of mine, and performed excellent services in the late Russo-Turkish war, by which he earned favour of the Emperor. The Emperor has always had a regard for him. He will inform you of all that is hidden in my mind. I hope you will pay great attention to what he says, and believe him as you would myself, and after due consideration you will give him your reply; meanwhile be it known to you that your union and friendship with the Russian Government will be beneficial to the latter and still more so to you. The advantages of a close alliance with the Russian Government will be permanently evident.

This friendly letter is written by the Governor-General of Turkestan, and Adjutant-General to the Emperor, Von Kaufmann.

Tashkend, Jamadiul Akbar 1295 (June 1878).

[The following is reckoned as a second letter, but it appears to be merely another translation of the above]:—

(After compliments.)

Be it known to you that our relations with the British Government are of great importance to Afghanistan and its dependencies. As I am unable to see you, I have deputed my trustworthy (official) General Stolieteff to you. The General is an old friend of mine, and during the late Russo-Turkish war earned the favour of the Emperor by his spirit and bravery. He has become well known to the Emperor. This trustworthy person will communicate to you what he thinks best. I hope you will pay attention to what he says, and repose as much confidence in his words as if they were my own; and that you will give your answer in this matter through him. In the meantime be it known to you that, if a friendly Treaty will be of benefit to us, it will be of far greater benefit to yourself.

 Inclosure 31 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated August 23, 1878.

(After compliments.)

YOUR friendly letter, dated the 12th February, 1878,* corresponding to the 10th Safar 1295 H. (sent by the hands of Nasir Khan), giving an account of the battles

* This letter is missing.

that have been fought between the Russians and the Turks, as well as of the events which have occurred at Kashgar, and inquiring regarding the coolness which has taken place between the British Government and the God-granted Government of Afghanistan, reached me on Tuesday, the 12th Rabi-us-Sani 1295 H. (16th April, 1878). I have fully understood its contents from the beginning to the end. In these days, as I wished to give Nasir Khan leave to depart, I was going to reply to your letter, but by a happy chance a mission, under the command of Major-General Stolieteff, was deputed by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor to this Court. The General delivered to me at the first interview your two friendly letters, which he brought from you from Tashkend. I have fully understood the contents of the letters, as well as the verbal representations of the above-named General, who has your full confidence, as well as that of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor. He has reduced to writing the verbal representations, the object of which was to strengthen the friendly relations between the illustrious Government of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor and the God-granted Government of Afghanistan, and made it over to me. I have communicated my replies to your letters to the said General, who will state them to you verbally. He will soon leave this and wait upon you, and state all matters in detail.

With a view to show honour and respect to the General, I have appointed Kamnab Mirza Muhammad Hassan Khan and Gholam Haidar Khan, my Peshkhidmat, to accompany him as far as Tashkend.

Inclosure 32 in No. 1.

(No. 1.) *Treaty between Russian Government and Ameer Shere Ali Khan, written from memory by Mirza Muhammad Nubbee.*

THE Russian Government engages that the friendship of the Russian Government with the Government of Ameer Shere Ali Khan, Ameer of all Afghanistan, will be a permanent and perpetual one.

2. The Russian Government engages that, as Sirdar Abdulla Jan, son of the Ameer, is dead, the friendship of the Russian Government with any person whom the Ameer may appoint heir-apparent to the throne of Afghanistan, and with the heir of the heir-apparent, will remain firm and perpetual.

3. The Russian Government engages that if any foreign enemy attacks Afghanistan, and the Ameer is unable to drive him out, and asks the assistance of the Russian Government, the Russian Government will repel the enemy, either by means of advice, or such other means as it may consider proper.

4. The Ameer of Afghanistan will not wage war with any foreign Power without consulting the Russian Government, and without its permission.

5. The Ameer of Afghanistan engages that he will always report in a friendly manner to the Russian Government what goes on in his kingdom.

6. The Ameer of Afghanistan will communicate every wish and important affair of his to General Kaufmann, Governor-General of Turkestan, and the Governor-General will be authorized by the Russian Government to fulfil the wishes of the Ameer.

7. The Russian Government engages that the Afghan merchants who may trade and sojourn in Russian territory will be safe from wrong, and that they will be allowed to carry away their profits.

8. The Ameer of Afghanistan will have the power to send his servants to Russia to learn arts and trades, and the Russian officers will treat them with consideration and respect as men of rank.

9. [Does not remember.]

10. I, Major-General Stolieteff Nicholas, being a trusted Agent of the Russian Government, have made the above-mentioned Articles between the Russian Government and the Government of Ameer Shere Ali Khan, and have put my seal to them.

(No. 2.) *Terms of the Russo-Afghan Treaty, written from memory by Mirza Muhammad Hassan.*

FRIENDSHIP has from old time existed between our Government and the Afghan Government, and now it is renewed.

2. The friendship of both Governments with the heir-apparent, whoever he may be, and with the heir of the heir-apparent, will remain firm.

3. Everything will be reported by the Ameer to the Yarim Badshah, *i.e.*, the (Russian) Governor (General of Turkestan).

4. The Russian Government will, through the Governor (General of Turkestan) assist the Ameer with troops, if ever he is attacked by a foreign Power.

5. The Ameer should affirm his power in the country. The Russian Government will, of course, call to account any members of his family, or other person, who may, intrigue or rise against him.

6. As friendship exists between the two Governments, it is proper that our merchants should go to Afghanistan, for the benefit of both parties.

7. The ancient country of Afghanistan will be returned to the Ameer, when, by the help of God, existing difficulties are overcome by the aid of troops.

Inclosure 33 in No. 1.

Letter from General Stolieteff to Afghan Foreign Minister, dated September 21, 1878.

THANK God I reached Tashkend safely, and at an auspicious moment paid my respect to the Viceroy (Yaroni Padshah means half King). I am trying day and night to gain our objects, and hope I shall be successful. I am starting to see the Emperor to-day in order to inform His Majesty personally of our affairs. If God pleases, everything that is necessary will be done and affirmed. I hope that those who want to enter the gate of Cabul from the east will see that the door is closed, then please God they will tremble. I hope you will give my respects to His Highness the Ameer. May God make his life long and increase his wealth! May you remain in good health, and know that the protection of God will arrange our affairs!

Inclosure 34 in No. 1.

Letter from General Stolieteff to Wazir Shah Muhammad Khan, dated October 8, 1878.

FIRST of all, I hope you will be kind enough to give my respects to the Ameer. May God make his life long and increase his wealth! I shall always remember his Royal hospitality. I am busy day and night in his affairs, and thank God my labours have not been without result. The great Emperor is a true friend of the Ameer's and of Afghanistan, and His Majesty will do whatever he may think necessary. Of course you have not forgotten what I told you that the affairs of kingdoms are like a country which has many mountains, valleys, and rivers. One who sits on a high mountain can see these things well. By the power and order of God there is no empire equal to that of our great Emperor. May God make his life long. Therefore, whatever our Government advises you, you should give ear to it. I tell you the truth that our Government is wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove. There are many things which you cannot understand, but our Government understands them well. It often happens that a thing which is unpleasant at first is regarded as a blessing afterwards. Now, my kind friend, I inform you that the enemy of your famous religion wants to make peace with you through the Kaiser (Sultan) of Turkey. Therefore, you should look to your brothers who live on the other side of the river. If God stirs them up, and gives the sword of fight into their hands, then go on in the name of God (Bismilla); otherwise you should be as a serpent; make peace openly and in secret prepare for war; and when God reveals His order to you, declare yourself. It will be well when the Envoy of your enemy wants to enter the country, if you send an able emissary, possessing the tongue of a serpent and full of deceit, to the enemy's country, so that he may, with sweet words, perplex the enemy's mind, and induce him to give up the intention of fighting with you. My kind friend, I entrust you to the protection of God. May God be the protector of the Ameer's kingdom, and may trembling fall upon the limbs of your enemies. Amen.

Write to me soon and send the letter to the capital. Please write in Arabic characters, so that I may be able to read your letter.

Inclosure 35 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated October 1878.

(After compliments.)

THE following are the events that occurred here lately. After the departure of General Stolieteff, the Ambassador of the illustrious Government from the capital to Tashkend, the officers of the British Government have become audacious, and have openly assumed a hostile attitude towards the people of this God-granted Government, and girded their loins to cause them mischief—facts of which you may have been made aware by letter from Pulkawnick.* As I now write they have advanced as far as Khyber, the frontier of the God-granted territory of Afghanistan. They have completed their preparations for an expedition. It now only remains for us to encounter each other. In short, matters have now passed the stage of temporizing, that is to say, they are proving aggressors. It is, therefore, the bounden duty of the officers of this God-granted Government to protect, according to their power and ability, the frontiers and the lives and property (of the people), but the fire of this disturbance is not likely to be extinguished; and soon after this friendly letter reaches you, you will hear that the British and the Afghan Governments have got involved in war. Relying upon your friendship, I expect that you will bestow your particular attention on the subject, and lend me your friendly aid in any way you think proper. I beg to inclose with this friendly letter copy of a cordial letter sent to His Imperial Majesty the Czar for your perusal. Although it was befitting and necessary to forward the Emperor's letter by the hands of a respectable and confidential agent, yet, as there was no time to lose, it was sent by the chapars sowars (mounted coursers). No doubt the excuse is quite apparent and reasonable.

 Inclosure 36 in No. 1.

Letter (inclosed in above) from Shere Ali to the Emperor of Russia, dated October 9, 1878.

(After compliments.)

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of friendship and amity, it is necessary to acquaint your Imperial Majesty with the occurrence of certain incidents and events, I beg to write that since the day the doors of friendly correspondence have been opened between your Majesty's powerful Government and this God-granted Government, and friendly communications have passed between them, the hearts of the officers of the British Government have been severely hurt. For a long time they have been annoying and harassing the officials of this God-granted Government, and many untoward acts, which are inconsistent with the forms of neighbourhood, have proceeded from them. The fire of their malice and device had not yet been put down when your Majesty's Mission arrived at my capital, Cabul, and strung the pearls of friendly sentiments on the thread of statement. This circumstance aggravated their opposition and enmity. After the arrival of your Majesty's Mission they assumed a hostile attitude, both publicly and privately, and behaved improperly, and showed hospitality in many different ways. First they proceeded to Jamrud, a place on my frontier, with a large number of followers, whom they called the escort (*lit.* camp), ostensibly on a mission, and in reality with the intention of causing mischief to this God-granted Government, and wished to pass on to the capital without permission, and satisfy their desire to insult your Majesty's Mission. As the officers and the Commandants of the outposts of this God-granted Empire smote the breasts of their desire (request) with the hand of rejection, saying that to form friendship by force and to send a Mission with such a crowd and uproar was contrary to the custom and usage of all nations, they returned to Peshawur, and are now busy organizing expeditions to Afghanistan, and have sent Proclamations of war to every nook and corner, and are using their utmost endeavours to sap the foundation of the Afghan Kingdom. Notwithstanding all this, the officers of this God-granted Government have as yet done nothing unfriendly or hostile, and have considered it far from prudence and caution to begin the first act of hostility. But it is a fact that the more we give in the more hostile they become. The British Government this day stands in the same position with regard to the Afghan Government as it did about forty years ago, viz., in those days an Ambassador of the illustrious Russian Government and an Agent of the British Government had arrived in

* *i.e.*, Colonel, meaning Colonel Rozgonoff, a member of General Stolieteff's Mission, who remained at Cabul.

Afghanistan. The late Ameer, led by his sound judgment, preferred the friendship of your Imperial Majesty to that of the English Government, and Afghanistan in consequence suffered what it suffered. In short, the English are determined upon war, and the subjects of this God-granted Government will defend their frontier, their lives, and property to the best of their ability. Let us see what Providence wills to result from this war, and what He will bring to pass.

The above is the unqualified statement of the situation of affairs from the beginning to the end, which I write for the information of your Imperial Majesty. I hope your Majesty will kindly send me friendly assistance befitting the greatness of your Imperial Majesty for the maintenance of the tranquillity of Afghanistan.

Inclosure 37 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General Stolieteff, dated October 1878.

(After compliments.)

DURING the time you stayed in the capital and had friendly conversations, you learnt the evil intentions of the English towards Afghanistan, and since you left for Tashkend their inimical disposition has been getting strong day by day, and have recently assumed publicly and openly a hostile attitude towards the Afghans. You have already been made perfectly aware of the state of affairs by the letters of Pulkawnich.* I have received no news from you for some time past. Matters have now passed temporizing, and war is imminent. They are the aggressors. Had it been in the power of the officers of this God-granted Government they would have avoided the rupture by temporizing, but it now remains to be seen what will appear from behind the curtain.

I lost no time in communicating the above circumstances to His Imperial Majesty the Czar and to General von Kaufmann, and now I beg to inform you of the same, so that you may be pleased to render such friendly assistance as may be thought proper, and as may become the grandour of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor.

Inclosure 38 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated November 4, 1878.

(After compliments.)

YOUR two friendly letters, one dated 21st September (1st October, 1878), corresponding to 4th Shawal, 1295 H., intimating that Pulkawnich Karadikoff, having been appointed to travel in Persia, left Tashkend and had reached Mazar-i-Sharif viâ Maimana, on his way to Persia, and expressing your hopes that the Governors of Afghanistan will not withhold their help from the said Pulkawnich; and the other letter, dated 1³/₅th October, 1878, corresponding to 19th Shawal, intimating the appointment of Pulkawnich Matyoff, with a certain number of followers, to travel in Trans-Oxiana, and expressing your hopes that the Governors of the Government of Afghanistan will help the said Matyoff in his travels, reached me on the 25th Shawal (22nd October), and the 4th Zikadah (31st October) respectively. I read them and mastered their contents. According to your recommendation I have issued strict orders to the Governors of this God-granted Government to the effect that they should pass on Pulkawnich Karadikoff through Afghanistan to the borders of Persia, and treat him with great respect and consideration. In the like manner they will show respect and hospitality to Pulkawnich Matyoff and his followers, who intended to visit Kulab, Hissar, Badakshan, and Kafiristan. But you should warn him that Kafiristan, being the country of the savages and mountaineers, who are like beasts in habit and devoid of reason, is not a place to travel in. He should be on his guard. No Afghan has ever visited this country, nor would any one venture to do so. It now rests with you to do whatever you like regarding his travels. Out of friendship, I beg to inform you that, owing to the above obstacles (dangers), travelling in Kafiristan requires great precaution.

* *i.e.*, Colonel, meaning Colonel Rozgonoff.

Inclosure 39 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated November 4, 1878.

(After compliments.)

BE it known to you that your letter, dated the 12th Shawal, reached me at Tashkend on the 16th (30th) October, *i.e.*, the 3rd Zekada, and I understood its contents. I have telegraphed an abstract of your letter to the address of the Emperor, and have sent the letter itself, as also that addressed to General Stolieteff, by post to Livadia, where the Emperor now is. I am informed on good authority that the English want to come to terms with you; and as a friend I advise you to make peace with them if they offer it.

Inclosure 40 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated November 20, 1878.

(After compliments.)

YOUR friendly letter, dated the 22nd October, 1878, corresponding to the 8th Zikadah, 1295 H., sent by the hands of the officials of this God-granted Government, has been perused by me. I have mastered the contents thereof. Before the arrival of the same letter, one from the officers of the British Government containing very severe, harsh, and hostile expressions had reached me. I read it and made it over to Rosgonoff, the Envoy of the illustrious Government, and he sent a Russian translation of the same to you. While I was writing a reply to the letter in question, answering all the queries, your letter reached me. You have written that I should make peace with them.* I know from the conduct and manners of the British Government that they will never withdraw from their enmity towards this God-granted Government. They will not listen to any overtures for reconciliation, and the removal of the misunderstanding, although no shots have as yet been exchanged. I have, however, according to your friendly advice given me by command of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, made overtures for peace;† that is to say, I have sent a friendly reply to their letter, containing civil and polite expressions, copy of which I beg to send herewith, so that you may read it and learn the facts of the case. What the British Government intends to do with regard to the invitation of Afghanistan remains to be seen. I trust that you will gratify me from time to time with an account of your good health.

Inclosure 41 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated November 26, 1878.

(After compliments.)

I WAS much pleased to receive your letter, dated 24th Zekadah 1295 (18th November, 1878), and hear of your good health. I have also received a copy of the letter which you sent to the Governor-General. May God be pleased with you. The British Ministers have given a pledge to our Ambassador in London that they will not interfere with the independence of Afghanistan. I am directed by His Majesty the Emperor to communicate this news to you, and then after forming friendship to go to His Majesty. I intend to go to the Russian capital after I have arranged the affairs of this country (Turkestan). As I do not consider it advisable to keep your trusted officials, whom you are in want of, here any more, I send Muhammad Hassan Khan, Kamuah (Deputy-Governor), and Gholam Haidar Khan, with two officers, back to you. I hope you will consider me a well-wisher of your kingdom, and write to me now and then. I have given instructions that, until my return, every letter of yours which they receive at Turkestan should be forwarded to the capital. Your good fortune is a cause of happiness to me, and if any troubles come upon you I shall be grieved. Some presents have been sent by me through Mirza Muhammad Hassan, Kamuah; perhaps they may be accepted.

* *Lit.*, should make over a branch of the tree of peace to them.

† *Lit.*, given them a branch of the tree of peace.

Inclosure 42 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Colonel Rosgonoff, dated December 1878.

THE Ameer knows perfectly well that it is impossible for me to assist him with troops in winter; therefore it is necessary that war should not be commenced at this unseasonable time. If the English, in spite of the Ameer's exertions to avoid the war, commence it, you must then take leave of the Ameer, and start for Tashkend, because your presence in Afghanistan in winter is useless. Moreover, at such a juncture as the commencement of war in Afghanistan, you ought to come here and explain the whole thing to me, so that I may communicate it to the Emperor. This will be of great benefit to Afghanistan and to Russia.

Inclosure 43 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to the Envoy sent by him with General Stolieteff (Mirza Muhammad Hassan Khan), dated December 8, 1878.

(After compliments.)

THE following is the state of affairs in this place. The English have in no way ceased to carry out their intention of interfering with Afghanistan. I have addressed a letter to the British Government, in which, in accordance with the friendly advice of my friend General Kaufmann, the Governor-General of Turkestan, gave me, by the command of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, I have made overtures for peace, but they took no notice of it, and attacked my Thanadars at Ali Musjid with twenty regiments. There were five regiments under my Thanadars. Many were killed and wounded on both sides in the fight. Seven or eight days after this occurrence they came in great force upon my Thanadars stationed at the Kuram cantonments. At first they suffered a defeat, but the second time they defeated my troops, and there was some loss on either side. The number of killed and wounded on both sides was much greater here than at Ali Musjid; in short, matters have now culminated in fighting, and they expect to take Afghanistan in a short time. Now, as this is the time for His Imperial Majesty the Emperor to lend friendly assistance, I have addressed a letter to my kind friend the Governor of Turkestan requesting him not to withhold the aid of troops at this time of need, in accordance with the requirements of the friendship between the two Governments, and not to defer the aid till some other time, but to send to Afghan Turkestan the 32,000 troops of Tashkend which General Stolieteff told me in your presence were ready, and would be dispatched whenever I required them. I allow you to urge both day and night the Russian Government of Turkestan for aid, and do not delay in this matter.

Inclosure 44 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated December 8, 1878.

(After compliments.)

YOU have been informed from time to time by my letters, as well as by those from the Ambassador of the illustrious Russian Government who was in Cabul, of the acts of enmity evinced by the British Government towards this God-granted Government. Lately the enmity of the British Government has reached such a pitch, that although I according to your friendly advice, given me by the command of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, sent them a reply to their last letter and made overtures for peace therein,* yet they have vigorously attacked with twenty regiments my five regiments stationed at Ali Musjid under the command of my Thanadar. Many lives were lost on both sides, and many were wounded. A few days after the battle of Ali Musjid they attacked with an overwhelming force my Thanadars stationed at Kuram, and a severe fighting took place. The battle continued for two days. At first they (the English) suffered a defeat, but afterwards they defeated my Thanadars. There was a greater loss sustained in this battle on either side than in that of Ali Musjid both in killed and wounded. Under these

* *Lit.*, given them a branch of the tree of peace.

circumstances, and at the advice of the gentry of Afghanistan, I sent the families of the nobles to Turkestan, and have also ordered all the people of Afghanistan to send their families to Kohistan and prepare themselves to fight. Although the British officers have received my letters, yet they have not ceased to show their open enmity. Their troops are pouring in with a view to take Afghanistan, and they expect to bring the war to a close in a short time, and take the capital, Cabul. My friend, I therefore beg to acquaint you with what I have in my mind, and beg to write that as there exists perfect concord between the illustrious Government of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor and the God-granted Government of Afghanistan, both on account of the old friendship and the recent alliance concluded through General Stolieteff on the part of His Imperial Majesty, should any harm or injury, which God forbid, befall the Afghan Government, the dust of blame will certainly settle on the skirt of His Imperial Majesty's Government. As the interests of the two Governments are identical, I expect, as a matter of course, aid in men from you. I hope that you will collect all troops available under your command at Tashkend, and dispatch them to Afghan Turkestan. Again I write to you that General Rosgonoff, the Envoy of the illustrious Government, stated that he had received an order from you that when matters get worse between the English and the Afghans, he should take leave from me and depart for Turkestan, and, consequently, he asked for leave, but I did not think it advisable to give him leave at present, for the sake of the mutual welfare of the two Governments, and for certain other considerations.

Inclosure 45 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated December 22, 1878.

(After compliments.)

PREVIOUS to this I informed your Excellency that the troops of the British Government had advanced on the territory of Afghanistan; that actions had been fought between us and them; that they paid no attention to the communications which I had addressed to them in accordance with the friendly advice which you gave me by the command of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, viz., that I should make peace with them. I hope you have learned all the facts referred to above. After I had dispatched the letter to you, all the gentry and Chiefs of Afghanistan waited upon me, and represented that the English had no other object but that we should not cultivate friendly relations with the illustrious Russian Government; that we should not let the Envoy of that Government visit our country, but that these (proposals) were not feasible now, as that illustrious Government, notwithstanding its greatness, had held out its hand of friendship; that we had renewed our friendship with it on a stronger basis than before; that we are now firm and strong in our friendship and amity; that if we all be ruined as we were forty years ago, nothing would disturb the basis of our alliance with that Government; that they were all of opinion that I should start for St. Petersburg, the capital of His Majesty the Emperor, in person, and have a congress* held there to inquire into, and settle, my cause with the English after asking them what right they had to advance on Afghanistan. They added that, God willing, my journey to Russia will produce many advantages, and that the right will not be overlooked in the capital of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor. Conformably to the advice of my well-wishers, having resolved upon visiting St. Petersburg, I have left my son, Sirdar Yakoub Khan, in charge of all my troops, Chiefs, and the property of the State, entrusted him with the civil and military government, and departed with a small number of officials for my destination. The above is the state of affairs, which I have written for your Excellency's information, who feels sympathy for the Afghan Government, and is a kind friend and the regulator of this God-granted Government.

Inclosure 46 in No. 1.

Firman issued by the Ameer Shere Ali dated December 22, 1878.†

WE received letters from the Governor-General, General Stolieteff, at the station named Sar Cheshmeh; Stolieteff, who was with the Emperor at Livadia having written to us as follows:—

* The English word "congress" is used.

† Already laid in "Afghanistan No 7 (1879)," p. 8.

"The Emperor considers you as a brother, and you also, who are on the other side of the water, must display the same sense of friendship and brotherhood. The English Government is anxious to come to terms with you through the intervention of the Sultan, and wishes you to take his advice and counsel; but the Emperor's desire is that you should not admit the English into your country; and, like last year, you are to treat them with deceit and deception until the present cold season passes away; then the Almighty's will will be made manifest to you, that is to say, the (Russian) Government having repeated the Bismillah, the Bismillah will come to your assistance. In short, you are to rest assured that affairs will end well. If God permits, we will convene a Government meeting at St. Petersburg, that is to say, a congress, which means an assemblage of Powers. We will then open an official discussion with the English Government, and either by force of words and diplomatic action we will entirely cut off all English communication and interference with Afghanistan for ever, or else events will end in a mighty and important war. By the help of God, by spring not a symptom or vestige of trouble and dissatisfaction will remain in Afghanistan."

It therefore behoves our well-wishing servants to conduct the affairs entrusted to them in a praiseworthy and resolute manner better than before, and having placed their hopes in God, rest confident that the welfare and affairs of this glorious Government will continue on a firm footing as before, and the mischief and disaffection which seem to have arisen in the country will disappear.

Let it be known to the high in rank, Tolmshir Bahadur and Hafizulla Khan, Secretary to the Sipah Salar-i-Aazim, that, thanks to God, the trouble we have been taking for a series of years in instructing and improving the officers of our victorious regiments has not been lost, and in fighting the English troops they have displayed the same bravery as the force of the civilized nations. Not one of the victorious troops went to heaven until he had himself slain three of the enemy. In short, they fought in such a way, and made such a stand, that both high and low praised them. We are fully confident that our victorious troops wherever they may fight will defeat the enemy.

The Herat army is also noted for its bravery and discipline, a result of your devoted services. You will convey our royal satisfaction to all the troops and inhabitants of Herat, high and low, and tell them that our hope is that God and his Prophet may be as satisfied with them as we are.

Inclosure 47 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated January 2, 1879.

I HAVE received your friendly letter, dated 13th Zel Hijja (8th December, 1878). In that letter you asked me to send you as many troops as could be got ready. I have written to you a letter to the effect that the Emperor, on account of your troubles, had communicated with the British Government, and that the Russian Ambassador at London had obtained a promise from the British Ministers to the effect that they would not injure the independence of Afghanistan. Perhaps you sent your letter before you got mine. Now I have heard that you have appointed your son Muhammad Yakoub as your Regent, and have come out of Cabul with some troops. I have received an order from the Emperor to the effect that it is impossible to assist you with troops now. I hope you will be fortunate. It all depends on the decree of God. Believe me, that the friendship which I made with you will be perpetual. It is necessary to send back General Rozgonoff and his companions. You can keep Dr. Yuralski with you, if you please. No doubt the doctor will be of use to you and to your dependents. I hope our friendship will continue to be strengthened, and that intercourse will be carried on between us.

Inclosure 48 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated January 7, 1879.

YOUR letter, dated 27th Zel Hijja (22nd December, 1878), has reached me. I was pleased to hear tidings of your good health. The Emperor has caused the British Government to agree to the continuance of Afghan independence. The English Ministers have promised this. I earnestly request you not to leave your kingdom. As far as possible, consider your own interests, and do not lose your independence. For the present, come to terms with the British Government. If you do not want to go back to Cabul for this purpose, you can write to your son, Muhammad Yakoub Khan, to make peace with the English as you may direct him. Do not leave the soil of Afghanistan at this time, because it will be of benefit to you. My words are not without truth, because your arrival in Russian territory will make things worse.

 Inclosure 49 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Shere Ali, dated January 11, 1878.

(After compliments.)

THE Foreign Minister, General Gortchacow, has informed me by telegraph that the Emperor has directed me to trouble you to come to Tashkend for the present. I, therefore, communicate this news to you with great pleasure; at the same time I may mention that I have received no instructions about your journey to St. Petersburg. My personal interview with you will increase our friendship greatly.

 Inclosure 50 in No. 1.

Letter from Shere Ali to General von Kaufmann, dated February 2, 1879.

(After compliments.)

AFTER my arrival at Mazir-i-Sharif at this time your three friendly letters, dated 8th, 13th, and 17th Muharram (2nd, 7th, and 11th January, 1879), respectively, came to hand. I perused them and understood their contents. The sweet (pleasing) expressions contained in your letter of the 17th has sweetened the palate of my desire and the flavour of the Royal favours of His Majesty the Emperor, and the desire of having a joyous interview with you have fixed my intention to visit Russia. I had determined to start for my destination shortly, as, after consultation with the Envoy of the illustrious Government, I intimated my intention to His Majesty the King of Bokhara, but, by the decree of God, I was suddenly attacked with catarrh and a fit of gout, and am now under the treatment of the Russian doctor and my own physicians. This circumstance has prevented me from proceeding on my journey.

Whereas the time is passing away, I have given the Envoy leave to return, and deputed my brother, Sirdar Shere Ali Khan, Shah Muhammad Khan, and Kazi Abdul Kadir Khan, who are the trustees and Ministers of the God-granted Government, with all speed to Tashkend to wait upon you without delay and represent to you verbally the state of affairs here, and remind you of that passage in your letter, which conveyed a reassurance to me, and which is to the effect that His Imperial Majesty the Emperor has exacted an agreement from the British Government to Afghanistan retaining its independence, and that the British Ministers have given an assurance to your Ambassador in London that they will not interfere with the independence of Afghanistan. But the English, notwithstanding that agreement and assurance, have advanced from Sherabad to Jellalabad, and from Pisheen to Candahar, an account of which events the Ministers of this God-granted Government will give you in detail. I hope that you will consider whatever my Ministers may state regarding the affairs of this God-granted Government true, and will kindly dismiss them with as little delay as possible after complying with their request.

Let it be known to you that I am exceedingly pleased with the noble qualities and

good manners of General Rosgonoff and his companions. Indeed, the General is a conscientious and able officer of his own illustrious Government and a well-wisher of this God-granted Government.

Inclosure 51 in No. 1.

*Letter from General von Kaufmann to Yakoub Khan, dated March 9, 1879.**

WISHING you complete happiness, the following are my words:—

With deep sorrow I heard the sad news of the demise of my friend, your all-beloved just father, the Ameer Sahib, and I sincerely lament the heavy loss sustained by you and by the country of Afghanistan.

Your Highness being the lawful heir—and having been called upon to become the Ruler of the country by your late father himself, at a time of dire visitation sent by God—have now ascended the throne.

I offer you my felicitations and my most sincere wishes of every good.

As a friend of your late amiable father, I hope that you will foster the same good disposition and the same confidence towards me as did your father, the late Ameer Sahib.

I wish your Highness wisely and justly to rule the people, who will not abandon you in these hard times, and who will be always ready to stand up for, and defend, your throne.

The Envoys of your late father, the Ameer Sahib, Sirdar Shere Ali Khan, Wazir Shah Mahomed Khan, Kazi Abdul Kader, and the Kemnal-Dabir Mahomed Hassan, are returning to be at your service. I am convinced that these men, who faithfully served your father, will as faithfully serve your Highness.

May God grant you wisdom, health, and the love of your people!

The Governor-General of Turkestan, Adjutant-General,

(Signed) VON KAUFMANN, 1st.

City of Tashkend, February 25,† 1879 (16th Rabil-ul-Awul, 1296 H.).

[N.B.—The Russian note at foot of the vernacular page testifies the correctness of the translation. It is signed by "Collegien Rath Nerasimof" or "Norasimof," and is dated Tashkend, the 25th February, 1879.]

Inclosure 52 in No. 1.

Letter from Major-General Ivanoff to Sirdar Musa Khan (son of Yakoub Khan) dated March 29, 1879.‡

ON the 26th of Rabi-ul-Awul (20th March), at an auspicious moment, I received your letter which you sent to me, and understood its contents. I was very much pleased, and at once communicated it to General Kaufmann, the Governor-General. With regard to what you wrote about the friendly relations between the Russian and Afghan Governments, and your own desire for friendship, I have the honour to state that we are also desirous of being friends. The friendship between the two Governments existed in the time of the late Ameer, and I hope that it will be increased and strengthened by Ameer Muhammad Yakoub Khan. May God change the wars in your country to happiness; may peace reign in it; and may your Government be strengthened. I have been forwarding all your letters to the Governor-General, General Kaufmann. May God keep you safe.

The Zarafshan Province Governor,

(Signed) IVANOFF, Major-General.

Written and sealed by the General.

Written on 29th Mart (March), 1879 (5th Rabi-ul-Sani, 1296).

* Already laid in "Afghanistan No. 1 (1880)," p. 10.

† New style, March 9.

‡ Already laid in "Afghanistan No. 1 (1880)," p. 169.

Inclosure 53 in No. 1.

*Letter from General von Kaufmann to Sirdar Musa Khan, dated April 8, 1879.**

TO the highly respected the Crown Prince of the Afghan throne, Sirdar Mahomed Musa Khan; to Ulam Aidar Khan; † to Ameer Mahomed; to Nur Mahomed; ‡ and to Khabibulla.

I wish you all constantly to enjoy the favour and the goodwill of the new ruler, the Ameer Sahib.

After which the following are my words:—

I cannot but tell you candidly that the news of the demise of my friend the Ameer Sahib Shere Ali Khan has profoundly grieved me. From your letter of the 26th, § Rabi-ul-Awul, I learnt that you, Sirdar Mahomed Musa Khan, as being the lawful heir, have been chosen by the Vaaliat, which proves the good disposition and attachment of the Afghan people towards your family and your race. To me, an old friend of your late grandfather, this news has given unspeakable joy.

I wish you all good fortune in all your good undertakings, and likewise that you may prove powerful supporters of the fortunate Ameer Sahib Mahomed Yakoub Khan. God grant it.

The Governor-General of Turkestan, Adjutant-General,
(Signed) VON KAUFMANN.

City of Tashkend, March 27 (new style, April 8), 1879.

[N.B.—The Russian note at the foot of the vernacular page testifies the correctness of the translation, and it is signed by “Collegien Rath Nerasimof” or “Norasimof.” It is dated Tashkend, the 27th March, 1879.]

Inclosure 54 in No. 1.

Letter from General von Kaufmann to Yakoub Khan, dated May 7, 1879. ||

AFTER my wishes and prayers for your Highness' safety and prosperity, I take the opportunity to write that, having bidden (a temporary) farewell to the affairs of the State entrusted to my charge, ¶ I intend to start for the metropolis of the Russian Empire on the 15th May, corresponding to the first week of Jamadi-us-Sani. I therefore beg to intimate this my intention to your Highness, and hope that your Highness, considering me your sincere friend and staunch well-wisher, will keep me informed of every occurrence that takes place in your Highness' dominions while I am away.

I have given orders that any letters that may be received from the Great Ameer (your Highness) during my absence should be forwarded with all possible despatch to St. Petersburg. May the Most High God prolong your Highness' life and grant your Highness a great victory.

(Here the seal of the General.)
(Here his signature in Russian.)

Dated April 25 (new style, May 7), 1879.

The above letter from General Von Kaufmann was entrusted to a special messenger. Its despatch was notified by the Russian Governor of Katti Kurgan to General Gholam Hyder Ali, Deputy-Governor of Afghan Turkestan, in the following communication, dated 29th April (new style, 11th May):—

“So long as the system of the universe continues in its working order through the instrumentality of Providence, so long may the Most Merciful and Gracious God continue you, who hold a high dignity and rank, and who do not stand in need of any praise or eulogy, on the path of prosperity, and maintain you on the masnad of authority, and make your days roll on agreeably to your wishes for the sake of the Chief of the Prophets and his holy posterity.

* Already laid in “Afghanistan No. 1 (1880),” p. 10.

† General Gholam Hyder Khan, late Deputy-Governor of Afghan Turkestan.

‡ Nur Muhammad Khan, son of the late Sirdar Sultan Muhammad Khan, half-brother of the late Ameer Post Muhammad Khan.

§ 20th March.

¶ Already laid in “Afghanistan No. 1 (1880),” p. 12.

¶ According to the Russian version, “on behalf of matter connected with the region entrusted to me.”

"I beg to inform you that my servant Nasir Khan is, at this happy moment, leaving with a letter from the Governor of the Province of Turkestan for His Highness the Ameer Mahomed Yakoub Khan, whose assistance is highly valued. It is hoped that you, out of regard for friendship, will send the man on with your own servant and cause him to be presented to the Ameer with the letter, and that you will kindly inform me of the delivery of the letter and the presentation of the man to the Ameer, as well as of the state of His Highness' health.

"This will not, of course, be more than a friend will do for a friend. May God make you happy and prosperous both in this world and the next, for the sake of His Prophet and His posterity."

Inclosure 55 in No. 1.

*Letter from Yakoub Khan to General von Kaufmann, dated July 26, 1879.**

YOUR friendly letter, dated the 7th May, reached me by the hands of Nasir Khan, and I fully understood all the friendly and neighbourly meanings contained in it.

The state of affairs here is that peace and friendship have been established between my Government and the British Government in a way which is conducive to the advantage of both. All cause of quarrel and misunderstanding has disappeared from between the two parties, and the officers of both Governments are now pleased and happy. As Nasir Khan has been dismissed, and is about to set out to his home, I have thought proper to answer your friendly letter, and to add that if at any time the officers of your Government, in accordance with the rules of friendship and neighbourhood, should require to communicate with my Government, either in writing or verbally, they will no doubt consider it advisable to do so through the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, the Russian Minister in London, his Excellency the Viceroy of India, or the British Envoy at Cabul, in conformity with the Treaty which has been concluded between my Government and the British Government.

No. 2.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, August 28, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me on the 23rd instant. After some conversation upon other topics, I spoke to his Excellency upon the subject of recent events in Afghanistan.

I went on to inform Prince Lobanow that the Secretary of State for India had spoken to me seriously on the subject of reports which had reached Her Majesty's Government, that Eyoub Khan had with him as officers Sarts who had been trained in the Russian army, and that this accounted for the scientific disposition of his troops and the efficiency of his artillery.

I was aware that M. de Giers had contradicted these reports, and had denied that there could have been any Russian officers with the Afghan forces; but the rumour had naturally recalled the attention of the India Office to the communications which had taken place between the Russian authorities in Central Asia and the Ameer Shere Ali, and which had been found at Cabul at the time of the British occupation.

Prince Lobanow expressed great curiosity to see these papers. He said that, soon after his arrival in London having seen an account of these documents in the newspapers, he had pressed Lord Salisbury to let him see them. Lord Salisbury had answered that it had been expressly decided by the Cabinet to consign them to oblivion in order to avoid irritating discussions between the two Governments. I gave him, for his confidential information, copies of the most important letters between General Kaufmann, General Stolieteff, and Shere Ali and his Ministers.

Prince Lobanow returned to the Foreign Office on the 26th. He told me that he had just written his despatch to his Government; that he had recapitulated what had passed between us, saying that, while stating the facts, and giving him the papers, I had not formulated any demand or made any request.

* Already laid in "Afghanistan No. 1 (1880)," p. 12.

No. 3.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, October 5, 1880.

AS I was leaving Baron Jomini this afternoon, his Excellency said there was a subject on which he wished to speak quite confidentially.

His Excellency said the Emperor had been grateful for the proof of confidence shown by your Lordship in communicating confidentially to Prince Lobanow copies of certain letters which had been found by the British troops at Cabul, and which were believed to furnish proof of secret Russian negotiations with the late Ameer. His Majesty has forwarded this correspondence to General Kaufmann, with orders to furnish him at once with the original drafts, which he supposes must be still in the General's possession, in order that His Majesty may see with his own eyes whether this intercepted correspondence is genuine or not. At the same time, His Majesty has sent to General Kaufmann the strictest orders to abstain from holding any communication whatever with the new Ameer. The Emperor had even gone so far as to direct General Kaufmann to send his reply to the Foreign Department to be forwarded through Her Majesty's Government, in case it should happen that Abdur Rahman Khan should ever write to him any of those ceremonial letters which the duties of good neighbourhood occasionally require.

No. 4.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

Sir,

Walmer Castle, October 25, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador has given me assurances from his Government with regard to Russian policy in Central Asia similar to those which you have received through Baron Jomini as reported in your despatch of the 5th instant. His Excellency said that, under present circumstances, the strictest orders had been given to General Kaufmann to abstain from any interference in Afghan affairs, and to avoid any action which could give ground for objection on the part of the British authorities.

He had been called upon to furnish the Imperial Government with duplicates of the letters which had been addressed to Shere Ali, and he had been forbidden to enter into any communication even of a complimentary character with Abdul Rahman.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 5.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, January 28, 1881.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me on the 24th instant, and referred to the conversation which I had with him at Walmer Castle on Central Asian affairs, and of which an account is given in my despatch of the 25th October last to Mr. Plunkett.

Prince Lobanow reminded me of what he had then told me of the instructions sent to General Kaufmann. He added that the Emperor had ordered General Kaufmann to send home copies of all the correspondence which had passed between the Russian authorities and Shere Ali or his Ministers, that this had been done, and that he had brought with him in a portfolio the whole of these papers. On comparing them with the translations which I had handed to him some months ago, he found that the latter were incorrect in places and required revision; that in one letter, of which two versions were given, a whole sentence seemed to have been added in one version which did not exist in the other or in the original, and that some confusion appeared to have been made between the words "friendship" and "alliance," the latter expression having been substituted in several places for the former. His Excellency then remarked that a perusal of the correspondence showed that nothing had been written which was not simply of a complimentary character, and known and not objected to by the Indian Government, until 1878, when the Russian Government believed a war with England to be imminent.

It was quite clear, he said, from all the correspondence, which he had studied, that the Ameer was neither Russian nor English, but an Afghan desirous of preserving the

ndependence of his country ; and that when the Russians found that the Government of India by different acts had made the Ameer hostile, they, under the pressure of the state of things in Europe, eagerly availed themselves of the opportunity.

I said that there were some very disagreeable passages in the letters written subsequently to the signature of the Treaty of Berlin.

Prince Lobanow replied that at the time when the letters I referred to had been written, the news of the signature of the Treaty had not reached General Stolieteff. As soon as the Treaty had been signed orders had been sent to General Kaufmann to abstain from any proceedings of a nature unfriendly to England. It had been impossible to refuse to receive Shere Ali, and he had been shown the hospitality which was proper under the circumstances, but he had not been allowed to go to St. Petersburg as he wished.

Time and distance had undoubtedly played a great part in the affair. For want of regular and direct communication the orders which General Kaufmann sent to General Stolieteff to moderate his zeal arrived too late, and it was thus that the impulse given in the first instance at Taskhend, in consequence of the imminence of war with England, had been prolonged at Cabul some time after the conclusion of the Treaty of Berlin. Stolieteff was recalled. On leaving Cabul he had taken *ad referendum* the proposals of Shere Ali ; but on his arrival in Europe the whole political situation had already changed, and the Ameer's offers were categorically rejected. Such were the real facts of the case.

As regards the reports that either Russians or Sarts trained in the Russian service had been supplied to Eyoub Khan for his campaign against the English forces, Prince Lobanow said he was able to give the most complete denial of their correctness. General Kaufmann had remarked that it was contrary to his whole policy to give the uncivilized, or half-civilized nations in Asia the advantage of European training or arms of precision, as it was impossible to tell whether they might not be turned very shortly against the donor, and a success gained over one European nation tended to make them more arrogant in their bearing towards another.

No. 6.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 9, 1881.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me yesterday afternoon at my request, and I informed him of the nature of the answer which I proposed to return to Lord Lytton's request, that the correspondence between Shere Ali and the Russian authorities found at Cabul should be made public.

Prince Lobanow observed that it was not necessary for him to undertake the defence of the conduct of his Government before the signing of the Treaty of Berlin. It had been acknowledged to have been justifiable by the late Government both in Parliament and also to the Russian Government. He reminded me of the speech made by Lord Beaconsfield in the House of Lords on the 10th December, 1878, and he quoted the following extracts from it:—"Eight months ago war was more than probable between this country and Russia; and an imprudent word might have precipitated that war. I will say of the expedition which Russia was preparing in Central Asia at the time when she believed that war was inevitable between our country and herself,—I will say at once that I hold that all those preparations on the part of Russia were justifiable, and if war had occurred, of course they would have contributed to bring about the ultimate result, whatever that might have been. Had we been in the position of Russia I doubt not we might have undertaken some enterprise of a similar kind. We may admit that if war had occurred between the two countries all the preparations in Central Asia against Great Britain and India were justifiable, but when it was found that war was not to be made, Her Majesty's Government made becomingly courteous representations to St. Petersburg, and it was impossible that anything could be more frank and satisfactory than the manner in which they were met."

His Excellency also showed me a despatch written by Count Schouvaloff in November 1878, giving an account of a conversation with Lord Beaconsfield on the subject of Afghanistan.

Count Schouvaloff reported Lord Beaconsfield to have said that he did not complain of the conduct of the Russian authorities during the period referred to; that he considered the course they had taken as being according to the rules of the game ("de bonne guerre") under the circumstances. Lord Beaconsfield had added that he had

wished to temporize with Shere Ali, but that the hands of the Home Government had been forced by the inopportune haste of the Indian Government, who had precipitated the matter.

Prince Lobanow went on to say that a draft Treaty between Russia and Afghanistan was drawn up, but that it was proposed by Shere Ali and taken *ad referendum* by General Stolieteff, who had taken it with him, being, when he returned from Afghanistan, still ignorant of the state of affairs in Europe.

His Excellency pointed out in General Stolieteff's letter of the 21st September, 1878, these words:—"I am trying day and night to gain our object, and I trust I shall be successful; I am starting to see the Emperor to-day in order to inform His Majesty personally of our affairs."

It was not, he said, the language of a man trying to get a plan of the Russian Government adopted, but of one who wished to further the Ameer's views.

Prince Lobanow added that the papers nowhere showed that the Russians had tried to excite the Afghans against the English. The Ameer, on his side, had been treated in a hostile manner by the Government of India, while Russia expected from day to day a declaration of war from England.

It was natural, under these circumstances, that both should be prepared to create as strong a diversion as possible against the country which seemed about to be their common enemy. But as soon as the conclusion of the Treaty of Berlin was known, General Kaufmann is shown in these papers to have strongly advised the Ameer to remain quiet.

I remarked that these negotiations of General Stolieteff took place nearly three months after the Treaty of Berlin had been signed, because I put the actual ratifications out of the question, and I pointed out to Prince Lobanow that there were two letters of General Stolieteff, one after his return to Tashkend, and the other said to have been from Livadia, to which this explanation would not apply.

He answered that these letters of General Stolieteff, if they are read with attention, indicate one thing only. On the General's arrival in Russia, first at Tashkend and afterwards at Livadia, finding the situation quite changed, he was exclusively occupied with extricating himself personally from the difficulty in which he was as regards Shere Ali. After saying that he worked day and night in his interest, he told him to follow the counsels of the Russian Government, who at the very time were advising Shere Ali to make peace. As to the draft Treaty, there was not even an allusion to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

CENTRAL ASIA. No. 1 (1881).

CORRESPONDENCE respecting Affairs in Central
Asia.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. 1881.*

LONDON :
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

CENTRAL ASIA. No. 2 (1881).

4.

FURTHER DESPATCH

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS IN CENTRAL ASIA.

[In continuation of "Central Asia No. 1 (1881)."]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1881.

LONDON:

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Further Despatch respecting Affairs in Central Asia.

[In continuation of "Central Asia No. 1 (1881)".]

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 23, 1881.

PRINCE LOBANOW called upon me this afternoon, and, in the course of conversation, alluded to the notice which Mr. Arnold had given in the House of Commons of a question which he intended to ask, viz., whether any further communication had been received from the Russian Ambassador with reference to the statement attributed to Lord Beaconsfield in a despatch from Count Schouvaloff with regard to the Afghan war, "that the hands of the Home Government had been forced by the inopportune haste of the Indian Government, who had precipitated the matter."

His Excellency observed that he had no further communication to make to me. He had nothing to defend or to retract.

He hoped it would be understood that, in reading to me one sentence from the draft of a despatch recording at length an interesting and important conversation, in which Lord Beaconsfield had shown a very friendly feeling towards Russia, his object was to strengthen the case of the Russian Government, and to show that Her Majesty's late Government imputed no blame to them.

What he should greatly regret would be that he should be thought to have mixed himself up in any party differences in this country.

His Excellency added that with respect to Count Schouvaloff, it was obvious that, apart from other considerations, he could have no object at the time in inventing or misrepresenting a statement of this kind.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

FURTHER DESPATCH respecting Affairs in Central
Asia.

[In continuation of "Central Asia No. 1 (1881)."]

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. 1881.*

LONDON

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS IN CENTRAL ASIA.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	Earl of Dufferin	Dec. 31, 1879	Preparations for expedition against Téké Turkomans. As to action against Turkomans of Merv. Conversation with M. de Giers	1
2	" "	31,	State of telegraph line between Chekishler and Asterabad	1
3	" "	Jan. 9, 1880	Akhal Téké expedition. Progress of preparations ..	2
4	" "	11,	Arrival of General Tergoukassoff at Chekishler, and disposal of troops	2
5	" "	May 11,	General Skobelev appointed commander of Trans-Caspian army	2
6	" "	22,	General Skobelev's movements	2
7	Mr. Thomson	June 10,	Persian Government has been requested to assist expedition against Turkomans in obtaining supplies	3
8	Earl of Dufferin	July 8,	General Skobelev's operations against the Turkomans. Occupation of Bami	3
9	" "	Aug. 2,	Skirmishes with the Turkomans near Bami and Geuk-Tépé	3
10	" "	23,	Extension of telegraph beyond Chekishler	4
11	" "	21,	Suspicious aroused as to object of General Skobelev's expedition. M. de Giers denies that it will go to Merv	4
12	Mr. Thomson	17,	Turkoman forces reinforced from Merv. Report of Russian losses near Geuk-Tépé, and of General Skobelev's departure for Europe	5
13	" "	25,	General Skobelev has renounced his visit to Europe	5
14	Mr. Plunkett	Oct. 10,	Progress and cost of Trans-Caspian Railroad	5
15	" "	Nov. 18,	Further details respecting Trans-Caspian Railway ..	6
16	Earl of Dufferin	Dec. 19,	Preparations for decisive movements against Turkomans from Bami	6
17	" "	22,	Successful storming of Téké position of Karyzi Kelat	6
18	" "	30,	Russian Advance from Bami	7
19	" "	Jan. 6, 1881	Rumours of Russian reverse at Geuk-Tépé, and advance of a detachment from General Kaufmann's army. Official explanations	7
20	" "	10,	Attack on Geuk-Tépé. Telegram from General Skobelev	7
21	" "	14,	Further successful attack on Geuk-Tépé. Telegram from Grand Duke Michael	8
22	" "	15,	Account of General Skobelev's expedition from the "Invalide Russe"	8
23	" "	18,	Further accounts of severe fighting before Geuk-Tépé	10
24	" "	20,	Turkoman attack on Russian forces. Russian loss	11
25	Mr. Thomson (Telegraphic)	26,	Reported fall of Geuk-Tépé	12
26	Earl of Dufferin (Telegraphic)	26,	Fall of Geuk-Tépé	12
27	" "	24,	Turkoman repulse and Russian approach to Geuk-Tépé	12
28	" "	26,	Capture of Geuk-Tépé. Modification of Russian policy in Turkestan to be expected in consequence	13
29	" "	28,	Account of the Akhal Téké oasis	13
30	" " (Telegraphic)	Feb. 4,	Advance of General Skobelev	14
31	To Earl of Dufferin	8,	Statement of Russian Ambassador with regard to Merv	14
32	Earl of Dufferin	1,	Conversations with M. de Giers and General Miliutine respecting General Skobelev's campaign, and his further advance	15
33	" "	Jan. 31,	Capture of Geuk-Tépé. Remarks of Russian press. Account of losses	16
34	" "	Feb. 3,	Account from General Skobelev of the storming of Geuk-Tépé	17
35	" " (Telegraphic)	11,	General Skobelev is returning to Bami	18

No.	Name.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
36	Earl of Dufferin	Feb. 9, 1881	Further extension of Trans-Caspian Railway. Continued advance of Russians beyond Geuk-Tépé ..	18
37	" "	10,	Russian occupation of Askhabad	18
38	" "	10,	Remarks by the "Golos" on the occupation of Askhabad	19
39	Mr. Thomson (Telegraphic)	16,	Persian slaves released from Turkomans by General Skobelev	19
40	Earl of Dufferin	14,	Russian proceedings consequent on fall of Geuk-Tépé. Telegram from General Skobelev ..	19
41	" "	16,	Prince Lobanow's statement regarding Merv (see No. 3). Considers that it is superseded by Emperor's assurance	20
42	" "	16,	Moderate views entertained by the authorities on the subject of Turkestan	20
43	" "	18,	Denial of "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of Russian intention to attack Merv as reported in "Daily News"	20
44	" "	19,	Further details of Russian proceedings since the fall of Geuk-Tépé	21
45	Mr. Thomson (Telegraphic)	Mar. 2,	Rumoured intentions of General Skobelev	22
46	" " (Telegraphic)	11,	Further occupations by Russian troops reported from Meshed	22
47	Earl of Dufferin	8,	Conversations with M. de Giers on question of advance to Merv. Further assurances	22
48	" " (Telegraphic)	26,	General Skobelev relieved of his command in Central Asia. General Rorberg to succeed him	23

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in Central Asia.

No. 1.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 5, 1880.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, December 31, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to state that on the 21st instant I had a long conversation with M. de Giers. Though I had thought it better to avoid any allusion to Central Asia, M. de Giers of his own accord touched upon the subject. He admitted that preparations were on foot for a large expedition against the Téké Turkomans, directed from two bases of operations, namely, Chekishler and Samarcand, assuring me, however, that it was with the greatest repugnance that Russia found herself driven into such courses.

He incidentally mentioned a report of the Turkomans of Merv having joined with the Téké Turkomans in assaulting and harassing the Russian forces during their recent retreat, and added, in a vague manner, "that it might become necessary to destroy 'ce repaire,'" hastily adding that of course there could be no intention that any Russian troops should remain there.

In reply to a question as to when the campaign was to begin, M. de Giers said that nothing was yet settled, there being great difficulty in determining which was the least unhealthy season for the contemplated operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 2.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 5, 1880.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, December 31, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a paragraph from the "Agence Russe" of yesterday's date, stating that the telegraph line between Chekishler and Asterabad is now in process of completion, and that some delay had been caused by the intrigues of the Turkomans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Extract from the "Agence Russe" of December 30, 1879.

TCHIKICHLIAR.—L'établissement de la ligne télégraphique entre le poste Russe de Tchikichliar, à l'embouchure de l'Attrek et Astrabad, est en voie d'achèvement. Quelques retards dans les travaux ont été causés par la malveillance des Turcomans, qui ont tenté, par des émissaires, de pousser les ouvriers à la désertion.

No. 3.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 15.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, January 9, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the "Golos" of the ^{27th December, 1879} 8th January, 1880, states that, according to the "Kavkas Messenger," the collection of provisions for the new Akhal Téké expedition has been finally completed in the Caucasus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 4.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 19.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, January 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation from the "Russki Courier," containing intelligence of the Russian expedition against the Téké Turkomans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Extract from the "Russki Courier."

(Translation.)

THE "Russki Courier" publishes a telegram from Tiflis, dated ^{26th December, 1879} 6th January, 1880, to the effect that General Tergoukassoff had arrived at Chekishler. Eight battalions of the 21st Division of infantry remain to guard the line from Duzulum to Chekishler; the rest being allowed to return temporarily to their respective cantonments.

No. 5.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, May 11, 1880.

THE official newspaper "Kavkaz" contains an order of the day issued by Prince Melikoff, Commander of the Army of the Caucasus, notifying the appointment by his Imperial Majesty of General Skobelev to the post of temporary commander of the active army of the Trans-Caspian region, and inviting him to assume his command.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 6.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 28.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, May 22, 1880.

ACCORDING to the newspaper "Obsor" (a Caucasian paper) General Skobelev, Chief of the Akhal Téké expedition, who has been staying at Tiflis since the $\frac{1}{2}$ th April, left for Petrofsk, viâ Vladivostock, on the ^{25th April} 7th May. In consequence of the traffic on the Georgian military railway being suspended at that time, General Skobelev, it is said, had to make the journey from Gudour to Kobi on foot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 7.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(Extract.)

Tehran, June 10, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Zinoviev (my Russian colleague), at an interview which he had yesterday with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed his Highness that, in despatches which he had recently received, General Skobelev informed him that the projected expedition against the Téké Turkomans would, subject to certain conditions and limits which he did not specify, be carried into execution in the course of the present year. In view of this, M. Zinoviev requested the Minister for Foreign Affairs to cause orders to be sent to the Governors of Koochan and Boojnoord, instructing those officials to afford all friendly aid to General Skobelev, and to assist his agents in the purchase of such supplies within their districts as he might require for the forces under his command. To these representations his Highness replied that this was a matter in which he must refer to His Majesty the Shah himself for instructions.

No. 8.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, July 8, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a telegram published by the "Invalide Russe," giving the latest intelligence respecting General Skobelev's operations against the Téké Turkomans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Substance of Article in the "Invalide Russe" of ^{June 26} July 7, 1880.

(Translation.)

THE "Invalide Russe" (the Russian official military organ) of the ^{26th June} ^{7th July}, 1880, contains the following telegram, forwarded from Borjour, the summer residence of the Grand Duke Michael, in the Caucasus, respecting the operations of General Skobelev against the Téké Turkomans:—

"General Skobelev, with his advanced detachment from Duzir-Olum, occupied on the ^{26th May} ^{9th June} last Kodjam-Kala, and then reached, after a march of two days with a light column, Bami and Beurma, which were abandoned by the inhabitants on the day of his arrival. On the ^{11th} ^{22nd} June he finally occupied, with his advanced detachment, Bami, where he is erecting a fortification and establishing a depôt of stores. On the ^{16th} ^{28th} June a reconnaissance, with two guns and a rocket company, was made in the direction of Archnian, from which point the enemy retreated after a slight fusillade. No losses occurred on this occasion. Stores are being transported to Bami from the line of the Attek, as also from the deserted settlements of the Tékés."

No. 9.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, August 2, 1880.

THE "Invalide Russe" of the ^{19th} ^{31st} July, publishes a telegram from the Grand Duke Michael, dated Borshom, ^{13th} ^{20th} July, giving an account of General Skobelev's movements, and of the skirmishes which have lately taken place between the Imperial forces and the Tékés.

I have the honour to inclose a translation of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Extract from the "Invalide Russe" of July 19, 1880.

(Translation.)

GENERAL SKOBELEFF reports from Bami that, in order to effect a reconnaissance of the Tékés at Geok-Tépé, and to destroy the crops and stores at the auls situated between Bami and Geok-Tépé, he advanced in the direction of the latter place on the 13th July from Bami, with a small column, consisting of three companies, three sotnias of Cossacks, four light field-pieces, two howitzers, and a rocket battery. After several skirmishes between the advanced guard and the enemy's cavalry at Artechman, Durun, and Akkala, the Russian column on the 17th July occupied Egyany* and Batyr-Kala. Having formed a temporary base at these places, General Skobelev on the 18th July, at the head of the greater part of the column, proceeded to reconnoitre the group of auls of Dengil and Geok-Tépé.

The Russian force was met by considerable numbers of the enemy's cavalry and fought its way to within 1,000 paces of the outworks of the fortified auls; under their cover a reconnaissance of the fortifications was effected, as also a survey of the locality; on the conclusion of which, at 1 p.m., the Russian force retired. Notwithstanding the repeated attacks of the enemy's infantry and cavalry, during which hand to hand encounters occurred, the same evening the column reached Egyan and Batyr-Kala without sustaining scarcely any loss; and having, at daybreak on the 19th July, repelled a fresh attack of the Tékés at Batyr-Kala, the column returned to Bami, after destroying a considerable number of crops and quantities of stores at the auls lying in the march.

During the nine days the casualties on the Russian side were three soldiers killed and eight wounded; they also lost eight horses killed and thirteen wounded. Such considerable loss is explained by the long range and accuracy of the firing. The injury done to the enemy by the destruction of the crops, &c., in the vicinity of Geok-Tépé, where about 10,000 Tékés are concentrated, who have been joined by 700 Merv Tékés General Skobelev reports, is felt in the difficulty the Tékés experience in obtaining supplies and in the outbreak of cattle plague. Moreover, in the engagements of the 18th and 19th July several Téké and Merv Chiefs were killed.

The condition of the Russian troops leaves nothing to be desired.

No. 10.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 28.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, August 23, 1880.

THE "Golos" of the 8th August announces that telegraphic communication has been extended from Chekishler to Duz-Olum, a point in the Trans-Caspian military circuit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 11.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, August 21, 1880.

ON my return from the manœuvres, I mentioned to M. de Giers that it seemed generally to be anticipated in the military circles in whose midst I had been moving, that General Skobelev's expedition against the Turkomans was about to assume very large proportions; that it was to be set in immediate motion, and that its ultimate destination was to be Merv. I then reminded his Excellency that he had given me to understand that the operations against the Turkomans during the present year would not be upon any very considerable scale, and would be rather of a tentative character than otherwise; that it was to be confined to the chastisement of the Tékés, and that Merv was in no sense the object of attack. If any changes had come over the intentions and projects of the Emperor's Government in relation to these matters, I trusted he would have the goodness

* Marked on the map as Isgan.

to keep me informed; as otherwise his previous language would have occasioned me to leave my Government under an erroneous impression.

M. de Giers replied that he had every reason to believe that, so far as General Skobelev's present plans were concerned, what he had formerly stated was still the case, and that, although, of course, the time would come when a considerable effort would be made to inflict effectual chastisement upon the Tékés, it was very improbable, unless General Skobelev possessed superhuman genius, that he would be in a position to strike a blow this year.

His Excellency concluded by most emphatically denying that Merv was the ultimate objective of the expedition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 12.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)*

My Lord,

Tehran, August 17, 1880.

I HAVE just received, through the Mission Agent at Meshed, a letter from Merv, under date of the 27th ultimo, stating that a force of 3,000 men had proceeded from that place to reinforce the Akhal Turkoman forces.

No movement of Russian troops had taken place within the Bokhara territory nor on the Oxus.

News has been forwarded from three towns on the Khorassan frontier to the effect that when General Skobelev was reconnoitring in the direction of Geuk-Tuppeh during the past month, he met with very strong opposition.

A considerable loss was incurred by his own forces as well as by the Turkomans, and the Russians too are reported to have lost a gun on this occasion.

General Skobelev having then withdrawn his forces to Bam, returned to Europe on a short visit.

According to the same account the Akhal tribes have assembled in great numbers, and the Russians are reported to be in want of additional reinforcements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 13.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)*

(Extract.)

Tehran, August 25, 1880.

AT an interview which I had yesterday with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, his Highness informed me that General Skobelev, after going to Krasnovodsk, as reported in my despatch of the 17th instant, had abandoned his intention of proceeding to St. Petersburg, and had returned to Chekishler.

No. 14.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 10, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that the "Novoe Vremya" states that 25 versts of the Trans-Caspian railroad will shortly be ready. The supply of water found along the line is said to be in excess of what was originally expected.

The whole line will extend over a distance of 200 versts, and the sum of 7,500,000 roubles has been assigned by the War Ministry for its construction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

* Substance telegraphed.

No. 15.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 24.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, November 18, 1880.

ACCORDING to a telegram from Krasnovodsk, dated the 1st instant, the construction of the tramway along the broad gauge permanent way of the Trans-Caspian railway has been completed as far as Bahalshnira, a distance of 41 versts. The whole distance now completed is 59 versts. Regular traffic is opened along the line, and transports are being sent forward to their destination.

The section of the line leading from Michaeloff Bay for a distance of 28 versts was put to a severe test on the 12th or 13th instant. A severe storm sprung up, and it was feared that the line would be buried in the sand; but actually, however, the only inconvenience experienced was a suspension of the traffic for three hours.

The telegram further states that cold weather has set in, to the discomfort of the troops living in Calmuck kubitkas. A number of iron stoves have been distributed among the troops.

It is stated in the Russian newspapers, as has already been reported in my despatch No. 463 of the 11th ultimo, that a credit of 7,000,000 roubles has been opened for the construction of the Trans-Caspian Railway.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 16.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, December 19, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that General Skobelev has commenced a decisive forward movement against the Téké Turkomans. Bami is mentioned as the place where a large dépôt has been formed, and where a quantity of provisions has been collected for the use of the troops. The Red Cross Society is dispatching to the probable scene of operations a fresh batch of Sisters of Mercy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 17.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, December 22, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to state that I am informed that General Skobelev reported, under date Kelat, the 11th December (N.S.), that, on the 9th instant, Colonel Mavrotsky, commanding a cavalry detachment which was advancing along the upper course of the Sumbar River, had stormed the fortified Téké position of Karyzi Kelat, and had, in spite of a determined resistance, completely routed the enemy. Several thousand heads of cattle and a quantity of arms were captured by the Russians. The women and children taken prisoners were given into the custody of the Nukhurts. General Skobelev further reports that he has received trustworthy intelligence to the effect that several thousand Merv Tékés are advancing, with artillery, to assist the Akhal Tékés.

This report of General Skobelev was telegraphed from Bami, the furthest point of the field telegraph communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 18.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 3, 1881.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, December 30, 1880.

ON the 14th instant General Skobelev started from Bami with 4,500 infantry and six batteries. On the same day he sent forward the cavalry belonging to his force to push on as quickly as possible and threaten the Turkoman retreat from Geuk-Tépé. The cavalry force consisted of four squadrons of Dragoons and a considerable number of Cossacks.

Two days later General Ernestoff followed with 5,000 infantry.

On the 18th instant General Annenkoff left Bami with 4,000 infantry.

No. 19.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 11.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, January 6, 1881,

FOR some days past a strong rumour has been current in St. Petersburg that General Skobelev has met with a reverse near Geuk-Tépé.

I have questioned M. de Giers and others upon the point, but the Russian authorities will only admit that General Skobelev ordered a reconnaissance for the purpose of feeling the enemy, and they maintain that no serious engagement has taken place, and that certainly no losses worthy of mention have been sustained.

It is certainly true, as I have already had the honour of reporting to your Lordship by telegraph, that General Kouropatkine has also arrived in the neighbourhood of Geuk-Tépé with a detachment from General Kaufmann's army. M. de Giers describes the force accompanying General Kouropatkine as a battalion, or a very small column,

In a conversation with Colonel Villiers, General Miliutine stated that though some troops had been concentrated during the summer on the southern frontier of Russian Turkestan, with the view of distracting the attention of the Tékés, there never has been a question of dispatching a force from the north to co-operate with General Skobelev. Probably, therefore, General Kouropatkine has merely conducted a tentative expedition organized for the purpose of ascertaining the practicability of attacking the hostile Turkomans from a northern base.

No. 20.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 17.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, January 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that His Majesty the Emperor, at a military parade held yesterday afternoon, caused a telegram to the following effect from the Grand Duke Michel to be read to the assembled staff:—

“That on the 21st December (Russian style) General Skobelev attacked the advanced Turkoman position in front of Geuk-Tépé, and carried it after severe fighting. On the following day the Turkomans made a sortie in great force, and endeavoured to retake the ground lost, but failed. The Russian losses were five on first day's fighting, ten on second. General Skobelev adds that he will at once begin the bombardment of the main Turkoman position previous to delivering an assault.”

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 21.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 18.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, January 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the following telegram appeared in the "Invalide Russe" of this morning:—

Telegram received from the Grand Duke Michael, dated the ^{30th December, 1880} 11th January, 1881:—

"I have only this day received a Report from Skobelev, which is dated ^{23rd December, 1880} 4th January, 1881. On that day at daybreak the first parallel, 800 paces from the principal outwork of Geuk-Tépé, was opened. The contest was obstinate and sanguinary. Its successful termination cost us, unfortunately, killed: General Petrusévitch, Major Bulygin, of the Tver Dragoons, the Cossack officer Ivanoff, and nineteen rank and file. Wounded: Lieutenant-Colonel Gojoberidzi, Sotnik Aleknikoff, and fifty-five rank and file. The enemy reinforced by 5,000 men from Merv. They fight with great determination. On our right flank, when General Petrusévitch was killed, the Tékés left over 300 bodies on the ground. Our troops are conducting themselves excellently, and Skobelev cannot sufficiently praise their daring. It is intended between the 24th and 28th (Russian style) to strengthen and reinforce the first parallel. The death of General Petrusévitch is a severe and almost irreparable loss. He was the prized and constant adviser of Skobelev."

No. 22.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 21.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, January 15, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of an article that appeared in the "Invalide Russe" of the 13th January respecting the movements of General Skobelev.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Extract from the "Invalide Russe" of January 13, 1881.

(Translation.)

DURING the course of several years measures have been taken to tranquillize the Trans-Caspian region, and to put an end to the raids committed by hostile Turkomans, as also to secure the trade route between Krasnovodsk and Khiva.

The expedition undertaken with this view against the Akhal Téké tribe in 1879 failed to attain the object in view. The Russian detachment unexpectedly encountered a numerous body of Tékés, strongly entrenched at Geuk-Tépé (situated 387 versts from the shores of the Caspian, in the centre of the Téké oasis), and was obliged to retire, owing to the want of means of transport. The Russian force, however, retained possession of Duzolum as an advanced post in the Valley of the Sumbar River (a tributary of the Attrek).

In 1880 the Government determined to renew offensive operations against the Akhal Tékés, who had, in the meantime, strengthened their position at Geuk-Tépé and the surrounding villages. On the appointment of General Skobelev in March month, the construction of a base of operation was commenced. The task presented extraordinary difficulties. It was necessary to collect 20,000 camels from distant places, to organize a regular transport service by sea, and construct a harbour in Michael's Bay, from whence was commenced the continuation of a railroad in the direction of Kizil Arvat.

This work occupied the summer and part of the autumn. Meantime, towards the end of May, a small detachment was formed, which, advancing from Duzolum, occupied Hodjam-Kala on the 29th May (o. s.), and on the 10th June (o. s.) captured the port of Bami, situated between Krasnovodsk and Geuk-Tépé. This enabled the Russians to take measures for the opening of new lines of communication from Michael's Bay to

Kizil Arvat and Bami. To this advanced point supplies were sent forward from Tchikishlar, and subsequently from Michael's Bay.

On the 13th July General Skobelev, at the head of the advanced detachment, made a reconnaissance in the direction of Geuk-Tépé. On the 18th July the detachment approached the fortification of Geuk-Tépé, and, notwithstanding the considerable body of Tékés which it encountered, succeeded in attaining the object in view. On the 10th and 22nd July the detachment returned to Bami, having traversed a distance of 230 versts in ten days.

Between the months of May and December the Tékés made frequent attacks on the Russian transports and patrols. Thus, on the 21st June (o. s.) 300 Tékés attacked a party of 12 Cossacks, who heroically defended themselves during eight hours, until they were reinforced by a company of infantry. In this engagement Doctor Studitsky and 2 Cossacks were killed, and 5 Cossacks wounded. During the early part of August the Turkomans made repeated attacks along the line between Bami and Duzolum, but were successfully repulsed on each occasion. Attacks were simultaneously directed against the Michael line of communication near the Aidin Wells.

On the 11th and 23rd September, a sotnia of the Taman regiment of Cossacks had a successful encounter with the enemy at the Wells of Kara-Singir, during which two Cossacks were wounded. During the night of the 14th September unsuccessfully attacked Bendesen and Hodjam-Kala. The same date the port of Kasanchik was attacked, the Russian loss being two soldiers wounded. On the 22nd and 23rd October (o. s.) a body of Téké infantry attacked the Russian line from Bami to Bendesen. The Russian loss was one man killed and two wounded.

During the night of the 27th November (o. s.) a column of cavalry, under the command of Colonel Navrotsky, carried Kazyr-i-Khelat by storm, inflicting great loss on the Tékés.

On the 11th and 23rd December, near the port of Kasanchik, a Téké force of 1,000 men attacked a Russian transport of 2,000 camels which was being conveyed by half a company of the Ansheron regiment. The Turkomans nearly succeeded in driving off the camels, but half a sotnia of Cossacks pushed forward from Kasanchik, and having overtaken the enemy at a distance of 15 versts, routed the Tékés and recaptured the camels. In this engagement the Russians lost 25 killed and 11 wounded.

In the early part of December the Russian troops occupied Artchman, Durun, Keliat, and Egian-Batyr-Kala: all these points were fortified and provisioned. On the 4th December General Skobelev with a small force made a second reconnaissance in the direction of Geuk-Tépé. The Russians obtained their object; their loss was 4 killed and 31 wounded, including 4 officers.

On the 20th December Colonel Kuropatkine arrived at Bami with a small force of Turkestan troops. This force had traversed a distance of 400 versts in 18 days, over a sandy desert, starting from the lower course of the Amu-daria, and proceeding by way of Artaka, Igdy, and Kizil Arvat. During the whole of the march only two men fell ill.

On the 12th December a third reconnaissance towards Geuk-Tépé was undertaken. The Tékés, numbering about 20,000 men, met the Russian force about 6 versts from the above fort. All the attacks of the enemy were repulsed by artillery fire and by volleys. Doctor Malshefsky was severely wounded in this affair; 1 soldier killed and 3 wounded.

This reconnaissance indicated the points of attack.

On the 20th December (o. s.) it was decided to storm Jangi-Kala, a fortified post situated 950 fathoms south of Geuk-Tépé. The attack was made by two columns from the north, under the command of Colonel Kozelkoff (and which was composed of 8 companies, 2 sotnias, 10 guns, and 2 rocket batteries), and from the south by a column of a similar strength under Colonel Kuropatkine; the main body was under the command of General Skobelev, and was composed of 18½ companies, 7 squadrons and sotnias, and 32 guns. This force proceeded to the left of Colonel Kuropatkine's column. The enemy prepared to defend the south part of Jangi-Kala by *posse* filled with water, but being attacked by Colonel Kuropatkine's column in the rear, and by Colonel Kozelkoff in the flank and partly in the rear, fled, and was exposed to the fire of the whole of the artillery of the main body, being also attacked by two sotnias of Cossacks under the command of Count Orloff Denisoff. On the occupation of Jangi-Kala by the Russian force, the enemy's infantry, in large numbers from Geuk-Tépé, made two attempts to retake the position, but were each time repulsed by the infantry and artillery fire.

A fresh attempt on the part of the Tékés during the night of the 22nd December (o. s.) was also unsuccessful. The Russian loss was 1 soldier killed and 10 wounded. Colonel Kozelkoff slightly wounded.

A reconnaissance of the eastern and northern fronts of Geuk-Tépé, undertaken on the 21st December (o. s.) by General Petrusévitch, with a cavalry column of six sotnias and a mounted battery, drew out a considerable force of Téké infantry and cavalry: a spirited engagement ensued, which compelled General Skobelev to bring up a force of 4 companies, 1 sotnia, and a battery. The charges of the Téké cavalry were so desperate, that several of their men were shot down at 10 paces from the Russian front. The Russian casualties on that day were 1 soldier killed and 5 wounded. The loss of the Tékés on both days was very considerable.

The Russian force has thus occupied a position quite close to Geuk-Tépé, and commands in the rear of the enemy the road to Askhabad. The considerable force of the Tékés and their strongly entrenched position will, in all probability, render it necessary to lay siege to the place, in order to avoid the losses which an open attack would entail.

No. 23.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 25.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, January 18, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose (in translation from the "Invalide Russe") copy of a telegram addressed to His Majesty by the Grand Duke Michael Nicolaivitch, dated Tiflis, ^{3rd} 15th January, giving details of the severe fighting before Geuk-Tépé on the ^{28th and 29th December} 9th and 10th January last.

The Tékés appear to have made a sortie in force, and to have temporarily occupied part of the Russian position, capturing several guns and mortars.

These, with one exception, were afterwards retaken, and the Russians on the evening of the ^{29th December} 10th January took by assault the enemy's outworks.

General Skobelev reports the firing as still continuing on the following day (the date on which his telegram was dispatched).

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of January 18, 1881.

"L'INVALIDE RUSSE" publie, en supplément extraordinaire, la copie suivante d'un télégramme reçu par Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Son Altesse Impériale Mgr. le Grand-Duc, Commandant-en-chef des troupes du Caucase:—

"Tiflis, 3 Janvier, 1881.

"L'Aide-de-camp Général Skobélew annonce à la date du 30 Décembre que le 28, à 6 heures du soir, l'ennemi, fort de 30,000 fantassins, a fait de Ghéok-Tépé une sortie contre nos tranchées en cours d'exécution, occupées et gardées par dix-neuf compagnies, un détachement de volontaires et 100 Cosaques à pied, avec vingt et un canons et trois mortiers. Total 2,600 hommes et vingt-quatre pièces d'artillerie. Malgré tous les efforts de nos vaillantes troupes, les Tékés réussirent un moment à s'emparer de la partie la plus avancée de nos ouvrages et d'une partie de la seconde parallèle, ainsi que de quatre pièces de montagne et des trois mortiers, mais, accueillis par un feu bien nourri partant de la première parallèle et attaquées avec un grand élan par les réserves, ils furent délogés de toutes les positions qui étaient tombées entre leurs mains et se virent obligés d'abandonner l'artillerie dont ils s'étaient emparés, à l'exception d'une pièce de montagne, que l'ennemi a pu emporter dans sa retraite précipitée.

"Dans cette attaque, aussi furieuse qu'imprévue, nos troupes d'avant-garde ont subi des pertes considérables. Une compagnie du régiment d'Apscheron a été surtout éprouvée. Composée de soixante et dix hommes, elle a eu trente-deux tués et dix blessés. Le Commandant du bataillon, Lieutenant-Colonel Prince Mogalow, le Chef de compagnie, Sous-Lieutenant Tchinarow, et le Sous-Lieutenant Gotto, sont restés

sur le terrain. Les servants des pièces prises un moment par l'ennemi ont été sabrés, mais les pertes des Tékés sont incomparablement plus fortes. Les cadavres des leurs encombraient nos tranchées et couvraient tout le champ de bataille.

“ Simultanément avec cette sortie, l'ennemi fit une vigoureuse charge de cavalerie contre notre camp, mais fut repoussé.

“ Immédiatement après la défaite des Tékés qui avaient pris part à la sortie, nos troupes reçurent l'ordre de s'avancer sous l'abri des tranchées jusqu'à la troisième parallèle. S'étant aperçu de nos travaux, l'ennemi renouvela son attaque contre tout notre front, en faisant sortir toutes ses forces disponibles; mais, accueilli presque à bout portant par une fusillade meurtrière, dirigée contre lui de la seconde parallèle, il fut rejeté dans la forteresse, avec des pertes énormes.

“ Les travaux ont continué et ont été terminés le 29 au matin, conformément au plan primitif.

“ Le 29 Décembre, jusqu'à 3 heures après-midi, nos troupes ont bombardé à outrance la forteresse et les ouvrages avancés de la face est, situés à cinquante pas des retranchements principaux. A 3 heures les troupes marchèrent à l'assaut et, après une lutte acharnée, s'emparèrent définitivement, vers 6 heures du soir, des ouvrages avancés ennemis, en s'y fortifiant solidement.

“ Le 30 Décembre le siège a continué.

“ Nos pertes dans les combats du 28 et du 29 Décembre sont de 7 officiers* et 102 soldats tués, 9 officiers† et 84 soldats blessés. Nous avons eu en outre 8 employés du service sanitaire tués ou blessés.

“ Dans la nuit du 28 au 29 Décembre s'est distingué tout particulièrement le Commandant de la 3^e batterie de siège, Capitaine en Second Balouïew, qui, tourné par l'ennemi, n'en a pas moins continué de tirer à mitraille, avec les seuls servants de ses pièces, et a réussi à sauver sa batterie.

“ Une vive fusillade continue le 30 Décembre.

“ Les troupes se conduisent d'une manière héroïque. Tout le personnel de la Croix-Rouge s'est distingué d'une manière hors ligne. Il a rendu des services inappréciables dans la nuit du 28 au 29 Décembre.”

No. 24.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 25.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, January 20, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a telegram published by the “*Invalide Russe*” of yesterday, giving details of the severe fighting which took place before Geuk-Tépé on the ^{30th December}_{11th January}. General Skobeleff admits a loss during the night of 1 officer and 52 men killed, and 5 officers and 95 men wounded.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Extract from the “Journal de St. Pétersbourg” of January 1st, 1881.

“ L'INVALIDE RUSSE ” publie aujourd'hui en supplément extraordinaire le télégramme suivant de Son Altesse Impériale Mgr. le Grand-Duc, Commandant-en-chef de l'armée du Caucase, à Sa Majesté l'Empereur :—

“Tiflis, 5 Janvier.

“ L'Aide-de-camp Général Skobeleff annonce à la date du 1^{er} Janvier que le soir du 30 Décembre, vers 8 heures et demie, l'ennemi a attaqué en masses compactes nos travaux de siège, à Ghéok-Tépé. L'attaque a eu lieu simultanément de front et par le flanc gauche, et se trouvait compliquée d'une attaque de notre camp, pris à revers et par le flanc droit. Un combat acharné, dégénéralant par endroits en lutte corps à corps, dura jusqu'à minuit et demi. Les Tékés furent repoussés du camp ainsi que du flanc droit et du front des travaux de siège. Sur le flanc gauche de ces

* Outre les officiers déjà nommés, ont été tués : le Lieutenant-Colonel Mamatsew, les Lieutenants Sandetsky et Niélépow et le Chirurgien-Major Troïtsky.

† Le Lieutenant-Colonel Bilde, le Prince Galitsyne, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, le Capitaine de corvette “Zoubow,” le Capitaine du Génie “Yablotchkow,” le Capitaine en Second Batrosch, les Lieutenants Gronnikow et Podgoublytsky, le Lieutenant de Cosaques Assier, et le Sous-Lieutenant Voïnow.

travaux ils réussirent à s'emparer momentanément d'une redoute occupée par une compagnie du bataillon sédentaire Transcaspien, et armée de deux pièces de montagne, après avoir tué tous les servants des pièces, infligé à la compagnie des pertes s'élevant à quarante tués (le Commandant de la compagnie et trente-neuf soldats), et quarante et un blessés. Les réserves, accourues à temps, reprirent la redoute et l'une des pièces de montagne, tandis que l'autre fut emmenée par l'ennemi, malgré la poursuite qu'il eut à subir en se repliant, avec des pertes considérables, et qui dura jusqu'au pied de la forteresse. Nos artilleurs, avant de mourir en héros, avaient eu le temps d'enlever le mécanisme de la culasse du canon perdu, et ce mécanisme a été retrouvé dans la redoute reprise par nos troupes.

“ Les travaux de siège qui devaient être effectués la nuit du 30 au 31 Décembre n'en ont pas moins été terminés.

“ Après la retraite de l'ennemi, la forteresse a été bombardée à outrance, et son intérieur battu pendant toute la nuit par des décharges plongeantes. Le lendemain notre camp a été avancé jusqu'à la première parallèle.

“ Nos pertes dans cette nuit ont été les suivantes :—Le Lieutenant Ivanovsky a été tué. Le Capitaine Cosaque Noudjevsky, le Capitaine en Second Balouïew, le Capitaine en Second Kharkévitch, le Sous-Lieutenant Grinew, et l'Enseigne Vagalow sont blessés. Nous avons eu en outre cinquante-deux soldats tués et quatre-vingt-seize blessés. Les pertes de l'ennemi sont très considérables. Le siège continue.”

No. 25.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received January 26.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, January 26, 1881.

INFORMATION has been received by the Russian Minister that Geuk-Tépé, after severe fighting and heavy loss on both sides, was taken by assault the day before yesterday.

No. 26.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburg, January 26, 1881.

GENERAL SKOBELEFF has taken Geuk-Tépé. Russian loss, 500. No officer of distinction has fallen. Turkomans pursued 15 versts.

No. 27.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, January 24, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 16th instant General Skobelev reports that he was within 45 yards of Geuk-Tépé. The entire Turkoman force joined in a sortie, attacking the Russian front and left flank. They were eventually repulsed and pursued to the walls of the fort.

The head of the sap is within 39 paces from the walls.

General Skobelev states that the Russian loss on the 16th amounted to 1 officer and 12 men killed, 3 officers and 78 men wounded; on the 17th 4 men killed, 1 officer and 17 men wounded. The General states that the service in the trenches is very severe, as the enemy's force is ten times greater than his own.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, January 26, 1881.

I INFORMED your Lordship this day by telegraph of the capture of Geuk-Tépé and Dengal-Tépé by General Skobelev.

In announcing the news to me this afternoon, M. de Giers observed that, now that this great victory had been gained, and the power of the Téké Turkomans signally broken, the time had come for the Russian Government to show its moderation, and to take care not to allow itself to be entangled in further military operations in that quarter of the world.

I asked his Excellency whether I might repeat this observation to your Lordship. His Excellency replied that I might do so as his personal opinion; but the news having only just arrived, he had seen nobody, and of course was not in a position to make any official declaration as to the course which the Russian Government might subsequently pursue.

I have little doubt, however, that, as far as the official world of St. Petersburg is concerned, from the Emperor downwards, there is a desire to circumscribe General Skobelev's military operations, and that the Minister of War himself is disposed to acquiesce in a pacific line of conduct.

A very significant protest against military expenditure was introduced into M. Abaza's budget memorandum; and I am convinced that the influence of the Minister of Finance, as well as that of M. de Giers, will be exercised in favour of a moderate policy.

The course of events, however, is very much in General Skobelev's hands; for a Commander-in-chief, at so great a distance from the seat of government, is always in a position to prove that military considerations have necessitated whatever line of conduct he may choose to adopt. A great deal must also depend on the attitude assumed by the defeated Turkomans. But, making every allowance for these uncertain contingencies, I am disposed to think that the circuit of Russian military operations in Turkestan will not be further extended.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 3.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, January 28, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 26th instant, I have the honour to inclose a translation of an article published in the "Goloss," giving geographical details of the oasis of the Akhal Tékés.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Extract from the "Agence Générale Russe" of January 14, 1881.

REVUE DE LA PRESSE RUSSE.—L'OASIS DES AKHALS-TÉKÉS.—L'intérêt qui s'attache à la lutte acharnée que nos braves mènent en ce moment dans la steppe Turcmène contre le principal repaire des Akhal-Tékés nous a engagé de reproduire ici, d'après le "Goloss," la description et la carte de cette oasis encore fort peu connue. Nous ne répondons pas, par cela même, de leur parfaite exactitude. Telles qu'elles sont, et faites d'après les nouvelles indications introduites dans la carte de la contrée trans-Caspienne (20 verstes par pouce) du dépôt de la guerre, elles peuvent néanmoins donner une idée approximative du théâtre de la lutte:—

"La route qui se dirige de Bama à Askhabade et Merv suit une courbe presque parallèle au Kopetdag, ligne de montagnes qui s'étend le long de la frontière Persane. À 120 kilom. environ de Bama cette route est entrecoupée par le ruisseau, dit Sékazéiabe, qui descend de la crête du Kopetdag; à cette intersection se trouve Denglitépé, l'un des cantonnements permanents des Tékés, dont un autre, à

2 kilom. environ plus au nord, est Ghéok-Tépé, tandis qu'une troisième, appelé Yanghikala, se trouve à même distance au sud du premier. Toute cette localité porte le nom général de Ghéok-Tépé. Le Général Lomakhine a en réalité attaqué Denglitépé et le Général Skobélev, après s'être emparé tout d'abord de Yanghikala, assiège actuellement Denglitépé. Quant au cantonnement proprement dit de Ghéok-Tépé aucune attaque n'a été et n'est encore dirigée contre lui. Il est à supposer que la principale concentration des Tékés est précisément à Denglitépé et que Ghéok-Tépé et Yanghikala ne sont, pour ainsi dire, que des points d'appui fortifiés. Or, comme chacun de ces cantonnements fortifiés est entouré de champs ensemencés, au milieu desquels se trouve toujours, selon l'usage de ces tribus, des espèces de forts détachés, dits 'kalys,' il est à supposer que les forts avancés dont nos troupes se sont emparés sont précisément des 'kalys' de ce genre. A l'attaque d'ailleurs entreprise par le Général Lomakhine contre Denglitépé nos troupes se heurtèrent à l'extrémité sud-ouest contre de hautes murailles, entourées d'un fossé d'environ deux toises. Quoiqu'il en soit, Yanghikala, Denglitépé et Ghéok-Tépé forment, sur le même cours d'eau, la ligne de défense ennemie appelée Ghéok-Tépé, au delà de laquelle commence la partie la plus habitée de l'oasis des Akhal-Tékés. Le fort ou la fortification de Samour se trouve plus à l'ouest, à cheval également sur la route de Bama-Askhabade, et près de Bama. On voit donc qu'en commençant son mouvement offensif de ce dernier point, le Général Skobélev a tourné la ligne défensive de l'ennemi du côté gauche. La première parallèle au sud de Denglitépé a été pratiquée au nord de Yanghikala, à l'est du cours d'eau et conséquemment à droite de la route d'Askhabade. Par cette position nous commandons notre ligne de retraite et la route d'Askhabade que doit suivre l'ennemi, soit pour se replier sur Merv, soit pour en recevoir des renforts, ainsi que les communications du nord. Il est assez probable qu'à l'heure qu'il est ce soit dans cette direction, c'est-à-dire, vers Ghéok-Tépé proprement dit, que les Tékés ont dirigé leurs familles. Lorsque les renforts lui seront arrivés, il est à présumer que le Général Skobélev pourra investir la ligne de défense de l'ennemi également du côté de l'ouest, et prendre ainsi par le flanc les Tékés qui défendent Denglitépé et tirent sur Ghéok-Tépé. Il est impossible en effet que, sachant par nos premières rencontres avec les Tékés combien ils étaient en nombre et forts, nous n'ayons pas massé des réserves tant entre Bama et la Mer Caspienne que sur les bords Caucasiens de celle-ci."

No. 30.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 4.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburg, February 4, 1881.

GENERAL SKOBELEFF'S cavalry have advanced 10 miles beyond Askabat.

No. 31.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 8, 1881.

IN the course of conversation yesterday afternoon the Russian Ambassador showed me a despatch from his Government written in April last, but which he said he had not shown at the time either to Lord Salisbury or to me, which contained some observations as to the scope and objects of the expedition against the Turkomans. The despatch stated that, in the opinion of the Russian Government, the importance of Merv had been much exaggerated; that they could not pledge themselves as to the exact limits within which their military operations would be confined; that they had no desire to push them as far as Merv, but if they found themselves compelled to do so they certainly did not contemplate a permanent occupation, and would withdraw as soon as possible.

Prince Lobanow explained that it had been left to him to communicate the contents of this despatch or not, as he thought fit, and that he had seen no advantage at the time in doing so.

I said that I noted that this despatch was written nearly twelve months ago. Otherwise it would have struck me that the information given in it did not go so far as

what had been lately said by M. de Giers to your Excellency, namely: "That now that this great victory had been gained and the power of the Téké Turkomans signally broken, the time had come for the Russian Government to show its moderation, and to take care not to allow itself to be entangled in further military operations in that quarter of the world."

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 32.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 9.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, February 1, 1881.

I HAVE had a few more words with M. de Giers relative to General Skobelev's recent achievements, and a very interesting conversation with General Miliutine on the same subject.

M. de Giers again alluded to the desire and the determination of the Russian Government to finish off their expedition against the Akhal Tékés as rapidly as possible. He told me he had repeated to the Emperor the personal assurances he had already given me on this point, as reported in my despatch to your Lordship No. 30 of the 26th ultimo; and that His Majesty had expressed his entire approval of what he had said.

Having, however, learned that a telegram had arrived from General Skobelev announcing his intention of proceeding at once to Askhabat, I called upon General Miliutine with the view of ascertaining what language he was disposed to hold in reference to General Skobelev's future programme. His Excellency was very frank and very positive. He told me that the slaughter of the Téké Turkomans had been enormous, whereas the Russians had only had 50 men killed. The dead bodies of no fewer than 4,000 Turkomans had been found within the enceinte of Geuk-Tépé. This is exclusive of those who had fallen in the previous combats, as well as of those who were cut up during the pursuit, which, as your Lordship is aware, was prolonged for 10 miles beyond the stronghold.

General Miliutine also informed me that the women and children of the principal Chiefs of the Turkoman tribes had been found by General Skobelev within the fortress, and that this circumstance would probably facilitate the speedy and permanent settlement of this district, and that deputations had already arrived from certain Téké Chiefs beseeching permission to return to their homes.

I then alluded to the reported forward movement of General Skobelev upon Askhabat. General Miliutine certainly did not deny the possibility of a march in that direction, but he gave me to understand that, as they had not yet received any details of the recent incidents of General Skobelev's campaign, it was impossible for the Russian Government as yet to appreciate the requirements of the situation; but he could assure me, he added in the most positive manner, that although, after having made so great an effort, it would be necessary for Russia to arrive at such a conclusive arrangement with the Turkomans as would guarantee their future good behaviour, and secure the tranquillity of the district, nothing more was desired by Russia than the termination of the campaign; that, in any event, operations would be confined to the subjugation of the Akhal Téké oasis, and that there could not be a question of an expedition across the deserts which separated the Akhal districts from Merv. If Merv were to be attacked, his Excellency observed, it would be better to advance upon it from the north rather than from the west.

As I have already stated in a previous despatch, the future movements of the Russian army in the Turkoman country are more in the hands of General Skobelev than in those of the Government at St. Petersburg; but, though it is possible that he may be able to advance to Askhabat, I doubt whether he has at present the means of proceeding much further into the interior of the country.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 9.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, January 31, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts from the Russian press referring to the capture by General Skobelev of Geuk-Tépé.

I also beg to inclose a translation of a notice published in the "Invalide Russe," giving the official return of the Russians killed and wounded during the assault of the Turkoman stronghold.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Extracts from the Russian Press.

THE Russian newspapers of the $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{5}{7}$ th January contain leading articles on the capture of Geuk-Tépé. The following extracts are taken from the principal organs of the Russian press.

The "Golos" says:—

"The Russian standard waving above the walls of Geuk-Tépé, after a hotly-contested struggle, must serve as a symbol of peace and tranquillity to the inhabitants of the Akhal Téké oasis, and who, after their struggle for life and death, deserve to be respected. . . . Russian prestige, which was shaken by last year's expedition, is now re-established. The Téké Turkomans, who considered themselves invincible, and sole masters of the Aral and Caspian steppes, have been conquered. Under these circumstances, the object with which the expedition was started, *i.e.*, to insure the security of our caravan routes. Consequently, it remains to be hoped that there will be no necessity for Russia to undertake new expeditions in that part of Central Asia. Enough life and enough substance has been sacrificed."

The "Novoe Vremya" considers that it is not the time to raise the question whether the expedition was worth the lives and money that have been expended upon it. The article speaks in loud terms of the heroic behaviour of the Russian soldier and his talented leader, Skobelev, and at the same time renders due justice to the fighting qualities exhibited by the Tékés.

The "St. Petersburg Vedomosti" is of opinion that the Tékés have suffered a crushing defeat, the effect of which will be felt throughout the whole Turkoman oasis, whose savage inhabitants must now bow to Russia's strength and authority. The terrible privations which the Russian soldiers undergo, and the almost insurmountable difficulties they encounter in these expeditions, are successfully overcome by the consciousness of the task which they have undertaken, and by their faith in the sacred mission of the nation. The interest felt throughout Russia, when the question arises of conquest in Asia, is remarkable. No idea of a compromise or a retreat is admitted. The Russian nation instinctively believes that the East belongs to it, and its sons are ready to maintain their right by sacrificing their lives. The Russian Empire in Asia ends where Russian dialects are not heard. It is not a question of numbers, but of historical right.

The "Molva" expresses a hope that with the capture of Geuk-Tépé and Dengil-Tépé, military operations in that region will be brought to a close, and that further conquests in that direction will be effected by other means than force of arms.

St. Petersburg, January $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{5}{7}$, 1881.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of January $\frac{18}{30}$, 1881.

D'APRÈS une dépêche de l'Aide-de-camp Général Skobelew, de Ghéok-Tépé, le 13 Janvier, nos pertes, lors de l'assaut de la veille, ont été les suivantes :

Officiers tués, 4 ; savoir : les Capitaines Grek et Kounakovski, le Lieutenant Merkilhew et le Sous-Lieutenant Moritz. Officiers blessés, 18 ; savoir : les Lieutenants-Colonels Popow et Zeprinsky, l'Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté, Comte Orlow-Denissow, les Capitaines Mitkévitich, Voltchansky, Goetschel, les Capitaines en second Khorkévitch et Davydow, les Lieutenants Youreniew et Arkhatzky, les Sous-Lieutenants Popow, Degterow, et Mahométow, les Enseignes Ouschakow, Kascheriniow, Oussatchew, Dserdsievsky. et Andronikow. Officiers contusionnés, 10. En outre, le garde-marine Maior est blessé.

Le nombre des soldats et sous-officiers tués est de 50 ; celui des blessés de 235 ; et des contusionnés de 75.—"Invalide Russe."

No. 34.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 9.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, February 3, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a translation of a telegram from General Skobeleff, which appeared in the "Invalide Russe" of yesterday.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Substance of Article in the "Invalide Russe" of ^{January 21}/_{February 2}, 1881.

THE "Invalide Russe" of the ^{21st January}/_{2nd February} contains the following telegram from the Grand Duke Michael, dated Vladikavkas, ^{19th}/_{31st} January, 1881 :—

"Skobeleff telegraphed on the $\frac{19}{31}$ th January the following particulars of the storming of Geuk-Tépé :—

"The 1st column was commanded by Colonel Kuropatkine, and consisted of 2 companies, 3 battalions, 3 Turkestan companies, $\frac{1}{2}$ company of sappers, 1 company of volunteers, 1 sotnia of Turkestan Cossacks, 1 mountain battery, and No. 6 battery of the 21st artillery brigade, 2 Gatling guns, 2 rocket batteries, and 1 heliograph ; column No. 2 was under the command of Colonel Kozelkoff, and consisted of 2 battalions, a company of sappers, 1 company of naval volunteers, a part of No. 6 battery of the 21st artillery brigade, 1 Gatling gun, 2 rocket batteries, and 1 heliograph ; the 3rd column, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Haidaroff, was formed of 1 battalion, a company of volunteers, No. 4 battery of the 19th artillery brigade, a company of sappers, 1 Gatling gun, 5 rocket batteries, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ sotnia of Cossacks ; the 4th column comprised the reserves—21 companies and 24 guns. Colonel Haidaroff's column was directed against the enemy's works on the south side, and opened the attack at 7 P.M. meanwhile 36 guns commenced to make a breach for Colonel Kozelkoff's column, preparations for which had been made on the $\frac{28}{30}$ th, and which was finally effected by the firing of mines charged with dynamite and pyrokselin, these mines having been laid at the base of the enemy's walls (on the south side) during the previous night. At 11.20 A.M. Colonel Haidaroff stormed the enemy's outwork, and occupied it with his force. At 11.20 a mine, containing 125 poods of powder, was fired under the ramparts on the east side, burying in the ruins several hundred of the Tékés. The explosion of the mine was the signal for the attack of Colonels Kuropatkine's and Kozelkoff's columns. Both ramparts were occupied in the space of ten minutes. A sanguinary hand-to-hand encounter ensued, the enemy stubbornly keeping their ground on the walls. The fight on the ramparts continued for about an hour ; 2 battalions and 4 companies of the reserves were moved forward. One battalion stormed that part of the enemy's wall between the two breaches, which remained standing, by means of ladders. All the Tékés on the ramparts were killed after a desperate resistance. At 1.30 Lieutenant-Colonel Haidaroff's column scaled the south-eastern wall of the fort. Fighting commenced in the interior of the fort. At 2 P.M. we occupied the commanding redoubt of Dengil Tépé, and became complete masters of the fort. The

enemy fled, leaving the camp, their stores, and families. One division of dragoons, 4 sotnias of Cossacks, 6 companies of infantry, 4 long-range guns and a mountain battery, pursued the Tékés and cut them down for a distance of 15 versts.

"Inside the fort we counted over 4,000 dead bodies, and this number does not include the slain which almost fill the moats and the masses sabred by the cavalry during the pursuit. Judging from the fresh graves and the information obtained, the total loss of the enemy during the siege and in the sorties is very great. We found a large number of guns, including our own Berdan rifles, a number of field-pieces with projectiles, several flags, kibitkas, stores of flour, forage, 4,000 families, including the families of 3 Imams, and, moreover, 700 Persian prisoners.

"The Russian loss between the 20th December and 12th January (o. s.) inclusive is reported as follows:—16 officers killed and 55 wounded (13 slightly). Rank and file, 267 killed and 770 wounded (123 slightly)."

Then follows a list of the officers and men who distinguished themselves during the siege and storm of Geuk-Tépé.

No. 35.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 12.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburg, February 11, 1881.

A TELEGRAM from General Skobelev, dated 8th February, states that he is en route for Bami with main column, leaving garrisons at Geuk-Tépé and Askhabad.

No. 36.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 14.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, February 9, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that according to a telegram from Tchikisblar of the ^{25th January} 1881, published in the "Golos" of yesterday, it appears that the Trans-Caspian Railway has been extended to Akhtcha-Kouima, the line being thus completed for a distance of 106 versts.

The correspondent adds that General Annenkoff, the chief constructor of the railway, will shortly return to St. Petersburg on account of ill-health.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Moscow Gazette" reports to that paper that reinforcements have reached General Skobelev's expeditionary corps, that a telegraph station is being established at Geuk-Tépé, and that the advance of the Russians beyond Geuk-Tépé continues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 37.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 14.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, February 10, 1881.

GENERAL SKOBELEFF has occupied Askhabad with a flying column, and Annan with a cavalry detachment. This last-named may be looked upon as the furthest point eastward of the Téké Turkoman country. Between Annan and Merv (180 miles) there is a considerable tract of desert.

The General has returned to Bami.

No. 38.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 14.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, February 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a précis of an article published in the "Golos" of the ^{24th January} _{5th February} on the occupation of Askhabad by a detachment of General Skobelev's troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Extract from the "Golos" of ^{January 24} _{February 6} 1881.

THE "Golos" of the ^{24th January} _{5th February}, 1881, comments in a leading article on the intelligence received yesterday of the occupation of Askhabad by a detachment of General Skobelev's troops.

The "Golos" considers that the occupation of Askhabad without any resistance shows that the victory of the $\frac{1}{2}$ ²/₄th was of a very decisive character, and that no apprehension of any serious opposition on the part of the Tékés need be felt any longer. Further, the article states that it was only by such an advance that the necessary impression could be produced on the minds of the population of the oasis. That such an impression has been produced is shown by the official statement that the population was tendering its submission to the Russian commander.

The article concludes as follows:—

"In what does the ultimate object of this expedition consist? The occupation of Askhabad without opposition does not prove that the contest is completely at an end, although it shows that the victory of the $\frac{1}{2}$ ²/₄th gained us positive strategical advantages.

"We must hope, however, that these advantages will not serve as the pretext for a further advance eastward. The fact that General Skobelev was at Bami on the ^{22nd January} _{3rd February} and not with the flying column, shows that he is taking measures for the consolidation of the success which has been gained."

No. 39.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received February 16.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, February 16, 1881.

TWELVE hundred Persian slaves taken from Turkomans have been released and handed over by General Skobelev to the Persian Agent in his camp, and he has provided them with sufficient means to reach their homes.

This action will not fail to produce a strong and favourable impression throughout the country.

No. 40.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 21.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, February 14, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a telegram sent by General Skobelev from Askhabad on the ^{26th January} _{7th February}, stating the measures taken by the Russians since the fall of Geuk-Tépé.

The General adds that the health of the Russians is up to the present time satisfactory.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" du 1^{er} Février, 1881.

LE même journal publie le télégramme suivant du Général Skobélew, en date d'Askhabad, le 26 Janvier :

"A la suite de ma proclamation invitant les Tékés à regagner leurs foyers, la population quitte peu à peu les plaines de sable et dépose les armes. 7,000 familles sont déjà de retour. Sati-Khan, Khoudaï-Verdy-Khan, et autres notables du pays sont dans notre camp, et c'est grâce à cette circonstance que les autres reviennent. On a organisé une administration temporaire. Je prends des mesures pour que la population indigène réunie à Ghéok-Tépé puisse regagner ses anciennes demeures. On lui a distribué différents objets trouvés dans le camp ennemi : des chariots, des vivres, des vêtements, des ustensiles de cuisine, et on lui prodigue aussi des secours médicaux.

On prend en outre les mesures indispensables pour désinfecter Ghéok-Tépé et ses abords, afin de prévenir les conséquences désastreuses qui pourraient se produire au printemps. Il paraît que 7,400 cadavres ont été enterrés à Doighil-Tépé, et que pendant le siège 8,000 Tékés sont tombés. Je crois pouvoir affirmer que pendant la poursuite de l'ennemi il en a péri encore jusqu'à 2,000.

L'état sanitaire de nos troupes est satisfaisant jusqu'à présent."

No. 41.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, February 16, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 8th instant, mentioning the fact of Prince Lobanow's having communicated to you, some time after he had received it, the contents of a despatch containing an exposition of the policy of the Russian Government in Turkestan, it may be proper to observe that I consider the positive assurance given to me personally by the Emperor of Russia himself (as reported in my despatch of the 13th August, 1879,* and commented upon in my subsequent despatch of the 26th August of the same year),† to the effect that there was no intention on the part of Russia of advancing to Merv, as still extant and in full force, and as never having been since qualified or withdrawn by His Majesty himself or by any of his Ministers.

From time to time I have taken care to remind M. de Giers that this was the sense in which I continued to regard His Majesty's gracious communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 42.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 21.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, February 16, 1881.

YESTERDAY M. de Giers informed me that he hoped matters were quieting down in Turkestan. He added that the Grand Duke Michael, who has recently returned to St. Petersburg from the Caucasus, entertained the most moderate and peaceful views, and that he was quite at one with the Emperor and the Ministers in desiring to circumscribe the limits of General Skobelev's operations.

No. 43.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 22.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, February 18, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an article from this morning's "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," denying the truth of the news recently published by the "Daily News" to

* See "Central Asia No. 1 (1860)," No. 115.

† Ibid., No. 117.

the effect that the Russians intend to attack Merv, and that General Skobelev, in order to reach that stronghold, proposes to march through Persian territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of February 18, 1881.

LE télégraphe nous a transmis hier soir la dépêche suivante de Londres :--

"On mande de Khélat au "Daily News," sous la date du 2 Février :—

"Les Chefs de Merv ont tenu une délibération dans laquelle ils ont décidé d'opposer aux Russes la résistance la plus extrême. Toutes leurs forces seront concentrées de façon à empêcher la marche des troupes Russes sur Tejend, où Makdoupouli Khan est arrivé avec 5,000 Tékés. Une trentaine d'Anciens des Turcomans de Merv sont partis pour Candahar afin d'y demander du secours. Le Général Skobélew a l'intention de traverser le territoire Persan. Le bruit court que les Turcomans essaient de faire dévier le fleuve à l'est vers Merv, afin de priver les Russes de l'approvisionnement d'eau."

C'est là une nouvelle à sensation, que le "Daily News" aura été bien aise de publier. Malheureusement pour son correspondant, à la distance où il se trouve du théâtre des opérations il ne peut avoir des renseignements authentiques. Il est l'écho plus ou moins conscient des bruits de bazars, et lorsqu'il parle des intentions du Général Skobélew, il puise ou dans sa propre imagination ou dans des rumeurs qu'il ne peut contrôler. Au lieu de songer à traverser le territoire Persan, le Général Skobélew revient—nous dit-on.

D'ailleurs, il n'a jamais été question d'aller jusqu'à Merv, et encore moins de traverser le territoire Persan. Et comme il est possible que le correspondant du "Daily News" montre du scepticisme lorsque nous lui dirons que le Gouvernement Russe entend respecter le territoire d'un Gouvernement voisin, avec lequel il est dans les termes les plus amicaux, nous opposerons à son assertion une considération plus terre à terre et devant laquelle il hésitera peut-être pas à s'incliner; c'est que nos troupes tirant une partie de leur approvisionnement du Khorassan il est de notre intérêt de ne pas froisser les susceptibilités Persanes. Ce qui enlève en outre de l'autorité aux assertions du correspondant Anglais, c'est qu'il a été victime de mésaventures qu'il s'est attirées par sa propre imprudence. Lorsqu'il s'installa à Mesched, la présence d'un Anglais qu'on savait intéressé à connaître les faits et gestes des Tékés donna de l'ombrage aux autorités Persanes; celles-ci étaient instruites des menées du Capitaine Napier et du Major Butler, et un compatriote de ces officiers pouvait à bon droit paraître quelque peu suspect. Les autorités Persanes voulaient d'abord lui interdire le séjour de Mesched; si elles le lui permirent ensuite, ce fut sur les représentations du Ministre d'Angleterre à Téhéran et à condition qu'il ne franchirait pas la frontière. Le correspondant ne se conforma pas à cette clause; il essaya de quitter le territoire Persan, fut arrêté au moment où il violait les injonctions reçues et acceptées et à la suite de cela il dut abandonner la Perse. Il est tout naturel qu'il soit aigri et contre la Perse et contre la Russie, à laquelle il attribue peut-être, et à tort, son expulsion. Le ton de ses télégrammes s'en ressent et il est disposé à envoyer au "Daily News" des nouvelles de nature à exciter l'opinion publique. Si notre confrère Anglais ignore ces détails intimes, il sera sans doute bien aise de les apprendre par notre intermédiaire.

No. 44.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 24.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, February 19, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a telegram, published in the "Invalide Russe" of yesterday, addressed by General Skobelev to the Grand Duke Michael, from Bami, on the 14th instant, giving further details of the proceedings of the Russian forces since the fall of Geuk-Tépé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of February 17, 1881.

LE "Messager Officiel" et "l'Invalide Russe" publient le télégramme que voici de l'Aide-de-camp Général Skobéleff à Son Altesse Impériale Mgr. le Grand-Duc, Commandant-en-chef de l'armée du Caucase.

"*Bhamy, 4 Février.*—Le détachement envoyé dans les déserts de sable sous les ordres du Colonel Kouropatkine a parcouru du 22 Janvier au 1^{er} Février une distance considérable. La cavalerie a fait 380 verstes, l'infanterie 250, en franchissant pour la plupart du temps des collines de sables mouvants. La population nombreuse qui se groupait autour des puits a fait sa soumission complète en voyant arriver nos troupes. Elle s'est laissé désarmer et elle a accompagné le détachement dans son retour à l'oasis. 15,000 personnes des deux sexes sont revenues. On a levé les plans des routes parcourues et l'on a dressé une carte routière. L'œuvre de la pacification continue en général d'une manière satisfaisante. D'Askhabad à Ghéok-Tépé toute la population est rentrée dans ses foyers. Dans d'autres localités le mouvement de retour a commencé."

No. 45.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received March 2.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, March 2, 1881.

I HEAR that General Skobeleff is still at Geuk-Tépé, and that he intends sending troops by Abi and the Atek of Deregez and Khelat to Tejen, where Akhal fugitives now are.

No. 46.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received March 11.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, March 11, 1881.

I HAVE heard from Meshed that Atek of Deregez is occupied by Russian force of 2,000 cavalry, 2,000 infantry, and 6 guns, and that marks indicating occupation have been placed by the Russians in Atek of Kelat.

No. 47.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 14.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, March 8, 1881.

ON Friday last I had what at the time appeared to me a very important conversation with M. de Giers, but a subsequent interview has in a great measure neutralized its significance.

On the occasion referred to M. de Giers requested me to telegraph to your Lordship to contradict a report to which the "Times of India" had given currency, to the effect that the Russian authorities in Central Asia had come to an understanding with the Turkomans of Merv, and were about to occupy that locality. This statement, M. de Giers said, was a pure invention.

But his Excellency went on to mention that two Russian subjects had been recently murdered by the Merv Turkomans, that English intrigues at Merv itself had complicated the situation, and that it was becoming uncertain what would have to be done. In reply, I said I trusted these observations were not intended to pave the way for an announcement that General Skobeleff was about to march upon Merv, as such a communication would be in direct contradiction to all the assurances which, during the last two years, not only he himself, but the Emperor, had authorized me to transmit to the British Government.

M. de Giers remarked that those assurances merely consisted in the statement that the Russian Government, at the time they were given, had no intention of going to Merv.

I answered that, although the word "intention" was undoubtedly to be found in some of the phrases made use of, the general purport of my repeated conversations with himself and with General Miliutine amounted to a serious, *bond fide*, and unambiguous declaration on the part of the Russian Government that Merv was not to be attacked. Moreover, I added, when the Emperor deigned on two occasions to give me similar assurances, His Majesty made use of the most unequivocal language, and an intimation of this kind, proceeding from so august a source, possessed a direct and abiding force which of necessity endured until it was formally retracted. Fortified by these considerations, and impressed by the sincerity and earnestness of his Excellency's repeated asseverations upon this point, I had led my Government to consider the matter as having been placed beyond doubt, and I hardly saw in what language I could convey to your Lordship any intimation to a contrary effect. At all events, if the announcements which had been so frequently made to me, and which I had been requested to repeat to London, were to be annulled, I should expect the fact to be conveyed to me, not by hints and doubtful innuendoes, but in terms absolutely clear and explicit.

On this his Excellency re-asserted his anxious desire to make the Russian policy in Central Asia conform to the programme he had described to me as the one which recommended itself to his own judgment.

Two days later I learned from my French colleague, General Chanzy, that a certain hesitancy in relation to the immediate termination of the Central Asian campaign had suddenly supervened in the minds of some of the Emperor's military advisers, but that this phase of things had again given place to more prudent counsels; and that he had that morning announced to his Government that the Emperor had arrived at a definite decision to forbid the further extension of operations in Central Asia, and that orders in that sense were to be sent to General Skobelev. "Not only," said the French Ambassador, "are those around the Emperor fully convinced of the necessity of economy and peace, but it is felt that in the present uncertain state of Europe it would be very disadvantageous for Russia to have an important part of the army occupied so far from home."

Yesterday I called upon M. de Giers, who informed me that he had given an account to the Emperor of our conversation of Friday, and that the Emperor had again authorized him to tell me that there was no question of an advance upon Merv. "Not only we do not want to go there," said M. de Giers, "but happily there is nothing which can require us to go there. But," he added, "the Emperor trusts that you upon your part will render a policy of abstention and moderation possible to us by not permitting English officers to haunt the oases and stir up the Turkoman population against us."

In reference to the foregoing conversation, I may observe that a son of General Kaufmann, who is known to be the bearer of an elaborate exposition of General Skobelev's views and proposals, will arrive here in a few days, and that it is possible, though under the circumstances I have narrated hardly likely, that the perusal of these documents may again lead to a modification of the intentions of the Emperor.

No. 48.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburg, March 26, 1881.

I HAVE been informed by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs that General Skobelev has at his own request been relieved of his command in Central Asia. He will, perhaps, not return to St. Petersburg until the arrival of General Rorberg, who has been selected to replace him.

General Rorberg is especially distinguished for his administrative talents, and he has received strict instructions to direct all his energies to the pacification of the country.

General Skobelev's return is generally regarded as an intimation that the campaign in the Téké Turkoman country is concluded.

CENTRAL ASIA. No. 3 (1881).

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE respecting the Affairs
in Central Asia.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. 1881.*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	To Earl of Dufferin (Telegraphic)	Mar. 28, 1881	India Office have received information of arrival of two Russian Elchis at Merv..	1
2	Earl of Dufferin	30,	Arrival of Russian agents at Merv. Conversation with M. de Giers respecting..	1
3	" "	Apr. 14,	Telegram from General Skobelev respecting submission of Turkoman Chiefs. M. de Giers' remarks respecting ..	1
4	" "	15,	Forwards extract from "Invalide Russe" respecting submission of Obaz Murad Sardar, principal Chief of the Tékés. General Skobelev's advance on Merv denied ..	2
5	Mr. Gosselin	17,	Termination of Russian expedition in Central Asia. Movements of General Skobelev. Information from "Golos" respecting ..	3
6	Mr. Thomson	Mar. 2,	Intended Russian expedition to Tejjen via Abiverd and Kelat. Conversation with Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting nationality of the country ..	3
7	" "	11,	Occupation of Atek of Deraghez by General Skobelev. Erection of boundary marks by the Russians ..	3
8	Mr. Gosselin	Apr. 20,	Termination of Russian expedition. Remarks of Russian press on ..	3
9	Mr. Thomson	5,	Russo-Persian frontier in Khorassan. Language held by Minister for Foreign Affairs to Russian Minister respecting ..	4
10	Mr. Wyndham	May 25,	Annexation of Téké Turkoman country to Russia. Imperial Ukase announcing ..	5
11	" "	25,	Conversation with M. de Giers with reference to above ..	6
12	" "	30,	Téké Turkoman deputation at St. Petersburg. Extracts from Russian press relating to ..	6
13	" "	June 1,	Boundaries of Téké country lately annexed to Russia not clearly defined in the Imperial Ukase ..	7
14	" "	6,	Reception of Téké Turkoman deputation by Emperor and Empress ..	8
15	To Mr. Wyndham	13,	To ascertain what are the boundaries of the territory annexed to Russia ..	9
16	Mr. Thomson	May 19,	Negotiations respecting Khorassan frontier have not yet commenced. Causes of the delay ..	9
17	Mr. Wyndham	June 15,	Conversation with M. de Giers and Baron Jomini respecting territory annexed and Russian negotiations with the Turkomans ..	10
18	" "	15,	Late Commander-in-chief of Akhal Téké forces appointed to rank of Major of Militia in the Russian service ..	10
19	" "	22,	Boundaries of Téké oasis incorporated in the Russian Empire. Conversation with M. de Giers respecting ..	11
20	" "	24,	Reception of Téké Turkoman deputation by Grand Duke Michael and by Minister of War ..	11
21	" "	29,	Askabad should be considered the most south-eastern town of Téké oasis (see No. 17). ..	12
22	" "	29,	Calls attention to an article by General Annenkow on the Akhal Téké oasis and the route to India ..	12
23	To Mr. Wyndham	July 5,	To send home, if possible, map showing boundaries of territory recently annexed to Russia ..	14
24	To Mr. Thomson (Telegraphic)	21	Trans-Caspian territory annexed and places now occupied by Russia. Information wanted for Parliament respecting ..	14
25	Mr. Thomson (Telegraphic)	22,	Limits of territory not yet defined (see No. 24). Places now occupied by Russians. Demarcation of Khorassan frontier not commenced ..	14
26	Mr. Wyndham	19,	Information respecting extension of Trans-Caspian Railway and of Russian annexations south of Askabad ..	14
27	" "	20,	Téké oasis annexed to Russia as described by General Annenkow in the "Nouvelle Revue" ..	15
28	" "	20,	Russo-Persian frontier negotiations. Conversation with Baron Jomini respecting, and as to extent of Téké oasis ..	15

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
29	Mr. Wyndham	July 20, 1881	Advantages to Russia of territory at the head-waters of the Attrek. Russian press on	15
30	To Mr. Wyndham.. .. (Telegraphic)	28,	To ascertain what are the towns south of Askabad annexed to Russia	17
31	Mr. Wyndham (Telegraphic)	29,	M. de Giers and Baron Jomini have stated that Askabad was their furthest point. Will try and obtain further information	17
32	" "	27,	Conversation with Baron Jomini respecting limits of Russian Trans-Caspian territory	17
33	" " (Telegraphic)	Aug. 5,	M. de Giers looks upon country immediately surrounding Askabad as present southern boundary of Téké oasis	17
34	Mr. Thomson	July 11,	Understands Annow to be the most easterly point at present in possession of Russians. Russian officers surveying the whole country	18
35	Mr. Wyndham	Aug. 3,	M. de Giers knows of no town south of Askabad occupied by Russians, but will make inquiries ..	18
36	" "	10,	Questions asked in House of Commons on Russian policy in Central Asia. Remarks in St. Petersburg press on	19
37	" "	17,	Formation of Trans-Caspian territory into a distinct administrative region. Remarks of "Novoe Vremyia" on	23
38	" "	Sept. 18,	Completion of Trans-Caspian Railway, with terminus at Kizil-Arvat	23
39	" "	22,	Russian troops in the Akhal Téké oasis. Extract from "St. Petersburg Gazette"	24
40	Mr. Thomson	Aug. 24,	Khorassan boundary. Minister for Foreign Affairs says that negotiations respecting have not commenced	25
41	" "	Sept. 1,	Sarakhs undoubtedly belongs to Persia (see No. 28)	25
42	Mr. Wyndham	Oct. {4,	State of affairs at Askabad. Account from "Baku Intelligence" respecting	26
43	Mr. Wyndham	8,	Trans-Caspian Railway. Information respecting from "Baku Intelligence"	26
44	Sir E. Thornton	20,	Arrival at Askabad of a deputation of nineteen Merv Elders	26
45	" "	20,	Well and river waters in the Trans-Caspian region. Analysis of	27
46	" "	31,	Account from "Baku Intelligence" of a Turkoman deputation recently arrived at Askabad from Merv	27
47	" "	31,	"Novoe Vremyia" reports reopening of Khorassan Boundary question.	28

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in Central Asia.

No. 1.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 28, 1881, 8 P.M.

INFORMATION has been received at the India Office of the arrival at Candahar of a messenger from Merv with letter from Téké Turkoman Chief, dated the 1st February, to the effect that two Russian Elchis are there.

No. 2.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 2.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, March 30, 1881.

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram of the 28th instant, intimating that news had reached Candahar of a couple of Russian agents having been sent to Merv, I questioned M. de Giers upon the subject.

His Excellency seemed quite unaware of the circumstance, but he admitted that a delegation from the Merv Turkomans had come to Skobelev with assurances that they had no wish to prosecute further hostilities against him. "It is possible," said M. de Giers, "that, in return, General Skobelev may have sent a couple of officers to Merv in order to tranquillize the apprehensions of the inhabitants, and insure the peace of the border. In any event, you may rest assured," added M. de Giers, "that there is no question of the acquisition of the country. Skobelev's proximate return is a proof of this."

No. 3.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 19.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, April 14, 1881.

THE following telegram from General Skobelev has just been received at St. Petersburg:—

"Obaz-Mourad-Tykma-Serdar, Chef Principal des Tékés, est arrivé le 28 Mars à Askhabad pour y faire sa soumission. Il est accompagné d'une suite nombreuse, dans laquelle se trouvent plusieurs Serdars très influents. Tykma-Serdar m'a remis son sabre et je le lui ai rendu au nom de votre Altesse Impériale, et en lui annonçant sa grâce. Le Chef des Tékés a juré de servir fidèlement Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

"Tout est tranquille dans le pays. Les Akhal-Tékés continuent à revenir en masse de Merv. L'arrivée de Tykma-Serdar met fin à l'expédition d'Akhal-Téké. Depuis le 12 Janvier on n'a pas tiré un seul coup de fusil dans l'oasis."

M. de Giers said that the above communication did not imply the surrender of their independence by the inhabitants of Merv, or anything more than an undertaking that they would abstain from harassing the Russian troops and the districts which had now passed under Russian domination; and that I might assure your Lordship there was no intention on the part of Russia to make any territorial acquisitions in the Merv oasis. On the contrary, as General Skobelev himself had observed, such a demonstration on the part of the Turkoman Chiefs only facilitated the prompt and immediate termination of the campaign.

M. de Giers added that eight battalions, or at all events a very considerable body of troops belonging to General Skobelev's force, were on their way home.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 4.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 19.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, April 15, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a telegram (as published in the "Invalide Russe" of yesterday) sent by General Skobelev from Askabad on the 28th March, stating that Obaz Murad Sardar, the principal Chief of the Tékés, has given in his submission.

The Chief's sword was returned to him, and he swore allegiance to the Emperor.

The General concludes by stating that tranquillity has been restored and not a shot fired in the oasis since the $\frac{1}{4}$ th January (the date of the fall of Geuk-Tépé).

The "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," in reproducing this telegram, draws attention to the assertion of the "Daily News" correspondent in this city, that General Skobelev was advancing on Merv. This statement, says the "Journal," is false: now that Merv has ceased to be a nest of bandits there is no reason for the occupation of the place by Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of April $\frac{3}{5}$, 1881.

"L'INVALIDE RUSSE" a publié hier la dépêche suivante, envoyée d'Askabad le 28 Mars par l'Aide-de-camp, Général Skobélew, à Son Altesse Impériale, M. le Commandant-en-chef de l'armée du Caucase :—

"Obaz-Mourad-Tykma-Sardar, Chef principal des Tékés, est arrivé le 28 Mars à Askabad pour y faire sa soumission. Il est accompagné d'une suite nombreuse, dans laquelle se trouvent plusieurs Sardars très influents. Tykma-Sardar m'a remis son sabre, que je lui ai rendu au nom de votre Altesse Impériale, et en lui annonçant sa grâce. Le Chef des Tékés a juré de servir fidèlement Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

"Tout est tranquille dans le pays. Les Akhal Tékés continuent à revenir en masse de Merv. L'arrivée de Tykma-Sardar met fin à l'expédition d'Akhal Téké. Depuis le 12 Janvier on n'a pas tiré un seul coup de fusil dans l'oasis."

D'un autre côté, le télégraphe nous a transmis hier soir l'information suivante de Londres :—

"Le correspondant du 'Daily News' à St. Pétersbourg lui ayant annoncé que le Général Skobélew serait de nouveau en route pour Merv, ce journal fait à ce sujet les réflexions suivantes: 'Ce serait un désastre Européen, un malheur pour l'Angleterre et la Russie si la vieille jalousie devaient se renouveler. Ce malheureux renouvellement ne pourrait pas être évité si l'on ne donnait pas, au sujet des mouvements du Général Skobélew, de promptes explications conformes à la lettre et à l'esprit de la déclaration faite par Sir Charles Dilke à la Chambre des Communes lors des débats sur la question de Kandahar.'"

Il aura suffi de lire la dépêche ci-dessus du Général Skobélew pour comprendre toute l'inanité des appréhensions exprimées par le "Daily News" et la fausseté des assertions de son correspondant. Pas un seul coup de fusil n'a été tiré depuis le 12 Janvier, date de la prise de Gheok-Tépé; mais grâce à la conduite habile, c'est-à-dire humaine et loyale, du Commandant des troupes Russes, les Chefs Tékés ont renoncé à toute hostilité. La prise de Merv est désormais sans objet, puisqu'il cesse d'être nu nid de bandes inquiétant les possessions Russes. Le "Daily News" aurait-il donc voulu que la Russie obligeât les Akhal Tékés à demeurer en hostilité et à continuer leurs déprédations? Mr. Dilke a-t-il jamais rien dit de semblable à la Chambre des Communes, et le récent rappel d'officiers Anglais qui hantaient ces contrées en "touristes" et en "volontaires," ne prouve-t-il pas que le Cabinet de Londres n'envisage point la politique des hostilités sourdes dans l'Asie Centrale comme nécessaire à la sécurité des possessions et de l'influence Anglaises?

No. 5.

Mr. Gosselin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 22.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, April 17, 1881.

WITH reference to his Excellency the Earl of Dufferin's despatch of the 15th instant, giving the text of a telegram sent by General Skobelev from Askabad, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the "Golos" of to-day publishes the following telegram from its special correspondent at Krasnovodsk, dated yesterday:—"General Skobelev is expected to arrive here in a few days. He has taken leave of the troops at Askabad, thanked them for their services, and announced that, the object of the campaign having been attained, the expedition is now finished. The General will pass through Geuk-Tépé, Samursk, Bami, and Chekishlar, leaving final instructions all along the line, and will take steamer at Krasnovodsk. It is said that he will proceed straight to St. Petersburg."

The "Golos" correspondent at Tashkend telegraphs, under the same date, that a slight improvement has taken place in General Kaufmann's condition, and that General Kolpakovsky, who left Vernoë yesterday, is expected to arrive at Tashkend on Monday the 18th instant.

General Kaufmann is reported to have had a paralytic stroke.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LE M. GOSSELIN.

No. 6.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

(Extract.)

Tehran, March 2, 1881.

AT an interview which I had yesterday with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, his Excellency stated that M. Zinoview, my Russian colleague, had informed him that General Skobelev was still at Geuk-Tépé, and that it was his intention to dispatch a force, via Abiverd and Kelat, to Tejjen, where a large number of the Akhal fugitives were now assembled.

In answer to an inquiry which I then made as to the nationality of the country in question, his Excellency said that these places did not belong to the Turkomans, but were unquestionably Persian territory, and added that the inhabitants of these districts were neither Akhal Turkomans nor nomads, but Aulcilis and other settled tribes, forming a fixed population, who acknowledge the sovereignty of and paid tribute to His Majesty the Shah.

Mirza Saïd Khan further informed me that M. Zinoview had spoken of the necessity, in view of recent events, of coming to some definite understanding with the Persian Government as to the line of frontier along the Khorassan border.

I have had the honour to communicate the substance of this despatch to his Excellency the Viceroy of India by telegraph this day.

No. 7.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

(Extract.)

Tehran, March 11, 1881.

I LEARN that the Atek of Dereghez is now occupied by a portion of General Skobelev's force, composed of 2,000 cavalry, the same number of infantry, and 6 pieces of artillery, and that the Russians have erected marks indicative of their having assumed possession of the country in the Atek of Kelat.

No. 8.

Mr. Gosselin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, April 20, 1881.

THE "Golos" of the 18th instant, commenting on the telegraphic intelligence that General Skobelev would return to St. Petersburg in the course of a few days, expresses the fervent hope that the Akhal Téké expedition will be the last of the kind undertaken by Russia in Central Asia, and that the Caucasian and Trans-Caspian authorities will refrain for the future from creating those conditions owing to which

Russia, through the "force of events," is from time to time involved in profitless expeditions.

The "Novoe Vremya" of yesterday notes with satisfaction the submission of Ovaz Murad, the Chief of the Tékés, to Russian authority; this new Russian victory in Central Asia, the "Novoe Vremya" remarks, is highly distasteful to the English press, which considers that the Merv Turkomans will follow the example of their Akhal Téké brethren. In such a case Merv—the "Queen of the World"—practically belongs already to Russia, whose military success is thus crowned by a political triumph of no small significance. In any case, the Merv Tékés will no longer come under the baneful influence of English emissaries, the sphere of English intrigue against Russia in Central Asia becomes limited, and Russia acquires a more defined and convenient frontier in the Trans-Caspian. Under these circumstances, no importance need be attached to English dissatisfaction, as "our neighbour in Asia" will have to recognize accomplished facts, *i.e.*, the subjugation of the Téké oasis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LE M. GOSSELIN.

No. 9.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

My Lord,

Tehran, April 5, 1881.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday informed me that although no formal negotiation had taken place with the Russian Government in respect to the demarcation of the line of frontier between Russia and Persia, on the borders of Khorassan, he had recently held several conversations with the Russian Minister on the subject.

He had explained, he said, to M. Zinoviev, by order of the Shah, what was claimed as Persian territory along the whole line of the Northern Khorassan border, and his statement had been to the following effect:—

The Akhal territory was recognized by Persia as being beyond the limits of her dominions, but all other districts not actually occupied by Akhal Turkomans formed part of the Province of Khorassan, and belonged therefore to Persia. This included within the Persian territory Kari Kala, Kokhor, Firozeh, and Kush Khaneh, and in fact all the districts situated to the north of Boojnoord and Kuchan between the Attrek river and the Akhal mountain range. In the direction of Dereghez, Gavers was considered by the Persian Government to be the last and most easterly Akhal Settlement, and all the villages to the east of that place belonged to Dereghez and Khelat, both of which districts, together with the Tejjen lands further east, were Persian possessions.

Mirza Saced Khan stated that the Russian Minister had not yet given any clear expression of the views of his Government on this subject. He was disposed, however, to admit Persia's right to Kari Kala, though he had hinted that the claim to Nokhor was doubtful. With reference to the Upper Attrek Valley, he had suggested that such villages as were not actually now in Persian occupation, or had been deserted by their inhabitants, might possibly be considered by the Russian Government as not belonging to this country, but he was unable to communicate more fully or explicitly on these matters until further information had been obtained from General Skobeleff to whom reference had been made.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs was of opinion that Russia did not intend to claim the Attrek River as the line of frontier towards Boojnoord and Kuchan, as M. Zinoviev had said that, strictly speaking, that claim might have been put forward, and that the determination of his Government not to insist upon it should be accepted by Persia as a proof of moderation and good-will on the part of the Russian Government towards Persia.

Mirza Saced Khan informed me that he had met the observations made by M. Zinoviev by saying that the temporary withdrawal of the inhabitants from villages which were exposed to Turkoman raids could not invalidate the Shah's territorial right over them, and by maintaining that no territory outside of the limits occupied by the Akhal Téké tribe could be claimed by Russia. M. Zinoviev had thereupon observed that Gavers, which is situated some miles to the east of Anou towards Dereghez, was occupied by Akhal Turkomans, and that it could not therefore be claimed by Persia; to which the Minister for Foreign Affairs replied that the

inhabitants of that place came originally from Akhal, but that they had separated themselves from the tribe, and were now peaceable cultivators of the soil, who owed allegiance to the Shah, and paid taxes to the Persian Governor of Deraghez.

The Persian Government considers that importance is attached by Russia to the possession of Gavers, as it lies on the direct line of march from Akhal to the Atek of Kelat and the Tejjen. A force moving in that direction would, it is said, if unable to pass through Gavers, have to traverse the desert further to the north, where it would encounter great difficulty.

Russian Engineers, with an escort of Cossacks, are now surveying the districts along the northern frontiers of Khorassan, and they have permission from the Persian Government to pass into Persian territory whenever they require to do so, in order to complete their surveys. The Shah has given orders that a Persian engineer should also visit that part of the frontier, and prepare a map for the Persian Government, but the person selected for this duty does not appear to possess the necessary qualifications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 10.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, May 25, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship the text of an Imperial Ukase announcing the annexation to the Empire of the territory of the Téké Turkomans which is occupied by the Imperial troops. That territory, together with the Transcaspian military district, is to be called the "Transcaspian Territory," and is to be incorporated in the military district ("circonscription militaire") of the Caucasus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

P.S.—General Röhrberg has been appointed Governor of the Transcaspian region and Commander of the troops stationed there.

H. W.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of May $\frac{13}{25}$, 1881.

St. Pétersbourg, le 12 Mai, 1881.

OUKASE DE SA MAJESTÉ L'EMPEREUR AU SÉNAT DIRIGEANT.—Ayant jugé utile, en vue de consolider la tranquillité et la sécurité dans les steppes Transcasiennes, d'annexer à l'Empire le territoire des Turcomans-Tékés occupé par nos troupes, nous ordonnons, savoir :

Il est formé avec ce pays et la contrée de la section militaire de la Transcaspienne un seul territoire sous le nom de "Territoire de la Transcaspienne," qui est incorporé dans la conscription militaire du Caucase. L'administration générale du nouveau territoire est confiée au Commandant-en-chef de l'armée du Caucase et l'administration locale au Commandant du territoire, sous les ordres duquel sont placées les troupes qui s'y trouvent.

Le Commandant-en-chef de l'armée du Caucase instituera une administration temporaire du territoire de la Transcaspienne, selon les circonstances du moment et d'après les conditions locales.

Le Sénat Dirigeant est chargé de l'exécution des présentes.

(Signé) ALEXANDRE.

Gatchina, le 6 Mai, 1881.

(Translation.)

St. Petersburg, May 12, 1881.

UKASE OF HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY TO THE EXECUTIVE SENATE.—Having judged it expedient, with a view to insure tranquillity and security in the Transcaspian steppes, to annex to the Empire the territory of the Téké Turkomans occupied by our troops, we command as follows:—

This country and the country of the military section of the Transcaspian shall constitute one territory, to be called the "Transcaspian Territory," and to be incorporated in the military district of the Caucasus. The general administration of the new territory is entrusted to the Commander-in-chief of the army of the Caucasus, and the local administration to the Commander of the territory under whose orders the troops there are placed.

The Commander-in-chief of the army of the Caucasus shall institute a temporary administration for the Transcaspian territory, according to circumstances and local conditions.

The Executive Senate is entrusted with the execution of these presents.

(Signed) ALEXANDER.

Gatchina, May 6, 1881.

No. 11.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, May 25, 1881.

I MENTIONED to M. de Giers to-day having seen the Ukase incorporating the Téké Turkoman territory with the Empire, which Ukase I have inclosed to your Lordship in my previous despatch of to-day's date. M. de Giers said that it referred to the Téké oasis, that everything was quiet there, and that the Tékés got on well with the Russian troops, of whom there were but a very small number, General Skobelev, who is at present at St. Petersburg, having withdrawn the greater part of them from the Téké Turkoman territory. M. de Giers also said that General Skobelev had so arranged affairs before leaving for St. Petersburg as to allow the Tékés to govern themselves almost entirely.

His Excellency spoke very highly of the qualities of the Tékés, who, he said, were not only good warriors, but a people upon whose word reliance could be placed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 12.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, May 30, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, an extract from the "Voix," published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the $\frac{1}{2}$ th instant, giving some account of the deputation of the Téké Turkomans recently arrived at St. Petersburg. At the head of the deputation, which consists of five members, is Tykma Sirdar, late Commander-in-chief of the Téké forces. Accompanying them is said to be a certain Kholli Sirdar, who has come to see the capital of the White Czar, his troops, and Russia in general, so as to be able to report upon what he sees to his countrymen, the Turkomans of Merv.

Tykma Sirdar is reported to have stated that the Tékés who have submitted to Russia number 40,000 families.

I have also the honour to inclose an abstract from the "Novoe Vremya" paper of the $\frac{1}{2}$ th instant, commenting upon the advantages to Russia of the annexation of the Téké Turkoman country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of May $\frac{1}{2}$, 1881.

LA "Voix" annonce que le 15 Mai, à 8 heures du matin, est arrivée à St. Pétersbourg, par le chemin de fer Nicolas, une députation de nouveaux sujets Russes, les Turcomans Tékés. La députation se compose de cinq membres. A sa tête se trouve Tykma Sardar, le ci-devant Chef des forces armées des Tékés. C'est un homme de 55 ans, de taille moyenne, de constitution très robuste. Son visage, qui brille d'intelligence, est encadré d'une barbe entièrement blanche, le regard est perçant, le front ridé. Il est vêtu de deux robes Orientales superposées, ceint d'un sabre Persan

et coiffé d'un bonnet conique en Astrakhan, s'arrondissant au sommet. Tykma Sardar a eu lors de la dernière guerre la poitrine traversée d'une balle Russe. Il a amené avec lui à St. Pétersbourg son fils Ourazberdy, garçon de 10 ans, dont la figure respire la droiture. Tykma Sardar désire placer son fils dans une des écoles militaires de notre capitale. On croit qu'il sera admis au corps des pages.

Les autres membres de la députation sont : Aviz, Téké notable, jeune homme presque imberbe, et Kholli Sardar, un vicillard de 60 ans environ, d'assez haute taille et à barbe blanche. Ce Turcoman ne fait point partie, à proprement parler, de la députation Téké, il l'accompagne seulement dans le but de voir la capitale du Tsar Blanc, ses troupes, et la Russie en général, afin de pouvoir raconter ensuite ce qu'il a vu à ses congénères, les Turcomans de Merv. Les députés ont avec eux un serviteur Téké, Kol Mohamed. Les figures des Tékés n'ont rien de farouche.

La députation est accompagnée du Capitaine de cavalerie Baïtokow et d'un djighite d'origine Kirghize, Youssoup Akboulatow, ayant appartenu à l'escorte du Général Skobéleff et décoré de la Croix de St. George, ainsi que de plusieurs médailles.

La députation est partie de Bhami le 19 Avril et s'est dirigée sur Astrakhan. Elle a passé un jour à Moscou et a beaucoup admiré le Kremlin, dont les tours aux sommets pointus rappellent un peu les minarets Musulmans. A St. Pétersbourg la députation est logée à l'Hôtel d'Europe. Tykma Sardar raconte qu'il a perdu dans la dernière guerre son fils aîné, mort en héros devant les tranchées Russes. Il dit que les Tékés qui se sont soumis à la Russie sont au nombre de 40,000 familles. "Nous avons su combattre les troupes du Tsar Blanc," dit le Chef de la députation Téké, "mais nous saurons aussi prouver notre fidélité et notre dévouement à celui qui nous a vaincus."

Tous les Tékés portent des robes Orientales et des bonnets d'Astrakhan.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Extract from the "Novoe Vremya" of May 1 $\frac{4}{6}$, 1881.

(Translation.)

THE "Novoe Vremya" of the 1 $\frac{4}{6}$ th May, commenting on the Ukase notifying the annexation of the Téké Turkoman territory, considers that such annexation comes very opportunely with the cession to China of Kuldja. The article says:—

"The Akhal Téké oasis is an advantageous acquisition principally in strategical respects.

"The importance of the new territory is threefold: (1) in regard to the routes leading into Central Asia; (2) as regards the pacification of the Transcaspian region; and lastly, in respect to neighbouring Asiatic States.

"It is well known that the route along the Attrek to Herat and Candahar is the best, if not the sole one, in the event of an expedition against East India. The occupation of a strong base on this route is clearly of great importance in strategical respects, and must in its turn influence the friendly disposition of England. The firmer we take up a position on the road to India the more yielding becomes the policy of England in the Eastern question.

"Similarly, it does not need special demonstration to show that the consolidation of our position in the Transcaspian region cements our friendship with Persia, the northern provinces of which will cease to be the scene of savage Turkoman raids, and it will further finally subordinate Khiva, Bokhara, and other semi-independent Central Asian Khanates to the political influence of Russia.

"In this manner these Khanates will represent islands bounded on two sides by Russian territory."

No. 13.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, June 1, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 25th and 30th ultimo, your Lordship will have remarked that the boundaries of the Téké country, lately annexed to Russia, are not clearly defined in the Imperial Ukase.

I understand that General Röhrberg, who has been appointed to command there, has been selected for the post on account of his pacific tendencies, and that he is to devote himself to establishing order in the country over which his command extends.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 14.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, June 6, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith an account, as published in the semi-official "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of to-day, of the reception by their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress at Gatchina of the members of the Téké Turkoman deputation.

The Emperor appears to have received them most graciously, and to have appointed Tykma Sirdar to the rank of a "Chef d'Escadron" of Militia in the Russian service, and to have presented him with the épaulettes appertaining to that rank. His Majesty is also stated to have given him a sword of honour, and a gold watch and chain, and to have presented gold watches and chains to the other members of the deputation, and to have further ordered that they should be furnished with velvet Oriental dresses and medals. Tykma Sirdar's son is to be educated in St. Petersburg.

Khollli Sirdar, a Téké from Merv, who was present at the reception of the deputation, is said to have watched the honours conferred upon Tykma Sirdar not without some envy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of ^{May 25} _{June 6}, 1881.

HIER, Samedi, 23 Mai, au matin, les membres de la députation Téké se sont rendus à Gatchina pour y être présentés à leurs Majesté l'Empereur et l'Impératrice. La députation se composait d'Evez Mourad Tykma Sardar, de son fils Ourazberdy, de deux Tékés de Ghéok Tépé, Mahomet Evez Seïd Ghildiew et le Khan Mahomet Riza Ogly, ainsi que d'un Téké de Merv, Khalli Haïberdiew. Les délégués étaient tous habillés de robes à l'Orientale, en drap noir galonné d'argent, et passées par-dessus d'autres robes de couleur. Ils avaient pour coiffure des bonnets Tékés en astrakhan. Tykma Sardar portait un sabre. La députation était accompagnée du Capitaine de Cavalerie Baïtokow, du Lieutenant-Colonel Meschétika, de l'Etat-Major, et du Colonel Aminow, Chef de l'Etat-Major des troupes de la région Transcaspienne.

A la gare de Gatchina des voitures de la Cour Impériale attendaient la députation. Un appartement a été mis à sa disposition au Palais. Après une légère collation, pendant laquelle les délégués ont été rejoints par M. le Général-Major Sobolew, Chef de la Section Asiatique de l'Etat-Major, la députation, précédée d'un piqueur de la Cour, a été conduite dans les appartements particuliers de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, où, dans la première salle de réception, elle a été présentée à M. l'Aide-de-camp Général Vannovski, Gérant du Ministère de la Guerre. A midi 40 minutes les délégués ont été introduits dans la salle où devait avoir lieu leur présentation à Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

Sur le coup d'une heure, Sa Majesté l'Empereur est entré dans la Salle, en petite tenue de Général, portant la croix de St. George au cou. Les Tékés, croisant les bras sur la poitrine, ont salué profondément le Souverain. Sa Majesté l'Empereur s'est approché de Tykma Sardar. Le Colonel Aminow a présenté l'un après l'autre tous les délégués, à commencer par Tykma Sardar, auquel Sa Majesté a fait plusieurs questions sur le rôle qu'il a joué pendant la dernière campagne. Le chef des délégués Tékés a exprimé en son nom et au nom de tous ses congénères le désir de rester "jusqu'à la fin des siècles" de fidèles sujets et serviteurs du Tsar Blanc. A la question

de Sa Majesté relative au fils de Tykma Sardar, ce dernier a répondu qu'il désirait le faire entrer dans une école militaire Russe.

Pendant cet entretien sont entrés dans la salle de réception Sa Majesté l'Impératrice et leurs Altesses Impériales Monseigneurs le Grand Duc Césarévitch, et le Grand Duc George Alexandrovitch. Les Tékés ont salué profondément la Souveraine et Monseigneurs les Grand Ducs.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur a gracieusement questionné chacun de membres de la députation.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur a remis de ses propres mains à Tykma Sardar les épaulettes d'argent de Chef d'Escadron de la Milice et lui a annoncé son élévation à ce grade au service militaire de la Russie. Tykma Sardar a reçu en outre des mains de Sa Majesté un sabre d'honneur et une montre en or, avec chaîne du même métal. Tous les autres membres de la députation ont reçu des mains du Souverain des montres en or avec chaîne. Sa Majesté a ordonné, de plus, de distribuer à tous les députés des robes à l'Oriental en velours et des médailles.

Après avoir souhaité aux Tékés de vivre paisiblement, Sa Majesté l'Empereur s'est retiré, avec Sa Majesté l'Impératrice et leurs Altesses Impériales Monseigneurs les Grands Ducs.

Touchés jusqu'aux larmes, les Tékés se montraient dans un enchantement indescriptible. "Je n'osais même pas rêver un bonheur pareil," disait Tykma Sardar. Son fils va être placé d'abord au pensionnat préparatoire de l'école de cavalerie Nicolas, puis au corps de pages. Quand on lui a annoncé qu'il allait commencer ses études, le petit Ourazberdy a demandé des explications sur le travail qui l'attendait. On lui a dit que dans les heures de récréation il serait libre de courir et de se promener. "Je ne veux pas courir, a répondu le petit Téké, je veux apprendre pour devancer les autres."

La députation a été reconduite dans l'appartement qui lui avait été réservé et où l'attendait un splendide déjeuner. Après le repas Tykma Sardar a cédé le sabre d'honneur que le Souverain lui avait donné et on a assujéti les épaulettes à sa robe de dessus. Il était enchanté et ses compatriotes aussi. Le Téké de Merv le regardait non sans quelque envie. Le nouveau chef d'escadron Russe a alors été félicité par tous les Russes qui assistaient au déjeuner. Tykma Sardar les a remerciés en leur serrant la main et en faisant le salut militaire Russe. Il répétait à chaque instant: "Notre Tsar Blanc est grand, puissant, glorieux, et bon."

No. 15.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 13, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 25th ultimo, which incloses the text of an Imperial Ukase announcing the annexation to the Russian Empire of the territory of the Téké Turkomans occupied by the Russian troops.

The Imperial Ukase gives no precise definition of the extent of territory to be thus annexed, and I should wish you to ascertain what are the boundaries of the territory in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 16.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received June 20.)

My Lord,

Tehran, May 19, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th April last, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the negotiations therein referred to as likely soon to take place in respect to the Russo-Persian line of frontier in Khorassan have not yet commenced.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that the surveys necessary for preparing maps of the Akhal territory and the northern parts of Khorassan, which are being made by Russian officers, cannot be completed for two or three months yet, and that until these maps are ready the demarcation of the frontier will not be proceeded with.

I am further informed by his Excellency that he had recently instructed the Persian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburg to repeat to the Russian Government what he had himself said to M. Zinoviev here, to the effect that all territory not occupied by Akhal Turkomans would be claimed by the Shah as belonging to Persia, and that he has received satisfactory assurances in reply from that official as to the moderate views now entertained by Russia in this matter, and the probability that the frontier question will be settled without any claim being raised which would encroach upon the territorial rights of Persia in Khorassan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 17.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 20.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, June 15, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I showed M. de Giers this afternoon the statements which appeared in the "Times" and "Standard" of the 9th instant respecting reported negotiations between the Russian Government and the Merv Turkomans, and that I also showed him the report of a question which had been asked in the House of Commons by Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, and of Sir Charles Dilke's reply.

With regard to the "Transcaspian territory," M. de Giers again stated that the part annexed to Russia was the Téké oasis, in which, I understood him to say, Askabad was the southernmost town; that the boundaries were not yet marked out, but that that was in course of execution. He said that reports had been lately received from General Röhrberg that all was quiet there; and he added that the General was an administrator, and not an officer who was likely to engage in warlike expeditions. I had the honour to report to the effect that I had heard that General Röhrberg was peacefully disposed in my despatch of the 1st instant.

With regard to Merv, his Excellency said that there was no question of negotiating a Treaty with the Merv Turkomans, or of establishing a Resident there; that he had seen the Merv Chief who is here at present, and had told him that Russia had no hostile intentions towards his people, and that she wished to be on friendly terms with them.

Baron de Jomini, whom I saw last night, and to whom I mentioned the subject, said that there were no formal negotiations going on for a Treaty with the Merv Turkomans, that they had been told that Russia wished to be upon peaceful terms with them; but, he said, there are two parties amongst them, one for peace, the other for war, and that raids upon Russian territory could not be permitted.

Baron de Jomini also told me last night that a report had reached the Government that thirty-two English artillerymen were on the point of coming to Merv, and that two of them were said to have already arrived there. M. de Giers told me that he had communicated this report to Prince Lobanow, stating, however, that he attached no belief to it. I said that, judging from what I had observed of the policy of Her Majesty's Government in Central Asia, I did not think there could be any truth in the rumour, and that the only Englishman I knew of as being at Merv was a correspondent of the "Daily News," and that he now appeared to be sojourning there against his will. M. de Giers laughed, and said that his reports from Merv had been most useful to General Skobelev, who had declined to allow Mr. O'Donovan, or any other correspondent, to accompany his army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 18.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 20.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, June 15, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, and to my despatch of to-day, I have the honour to state that the "Invalide Russe" of the ^{27th} ~~28th~~ ^{JUNE} ~~JUNE~~ notified the

appointment of Evaz Murad Tykma Sirdar, late Commander-in-Chief of the Akhal Téke forces, to the rank of Major of Militia in the Russian service, and that the "Moscow Gazette" of the ^{30th May}_{11th June} announced that he would take part in the civil administration of the Turkoman country recently annexed by the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 19.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, June 22, 1881.

WITH reference to the orders contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report that I spoke to M. de Giers to-day respecting the boundaries of the Téke oasis lately incorporated in the Russian Empire.

I reminded his Excellency that he had told me that the frontiers were not yet marked out, but that measures were being taken with that object, and I then asked him if there would be any objection to informing Her Majesty's Government what those boundaries were when they had been defined.

His Excellency replied that he did not know the boundaries; and that, although he did not think there would be any secret about them, he could not take any engagement beforehand as to making them known, and he remarked, "You do the same thing" (meaning you annex territories), "and I am not aware that you are asked what your frontiers are."

His Excellency then went on to say that all being quiet in the Téke country, they would see if the frontiers could be marked out, and he added that the Kurds being tranquil, and the Persians also, the moment was favourable for making maps, which were much required, and he said that *pourparlers* of a vague nature had commenced between Russia and Persia to come to some arrangement as to frontiers. I said, "Do you mean a rectification of frontiers?" and his Excellency answered, "Yes," and I clearly understood him to refer to the line of frontier from the Caspian to the head or sources of the River Attrek, and his Excellency, apparently to illustrate the necessity of a rectification of frontiers with Persia, mentioned Karakala, about which he said disputes were constantly arising between Russia and Persia.

No. 20.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, June 24, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, an account, as published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of to-day, of the reception by the Grand Duke Michael Nicholaievitch and by the Minister of War of the Deputation of Téke Turkomans at present in St. Petersburg.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of January $\frac{1}{2}$, 1881.

LE même jour les Députés Tékes se sont présentés à son Altesse Impériale Mgr. le Grand-Duc Michael Nicolaïévitch, dans son bien de Mikhailovskoé. Le Chef de la députation, Tykma Sardar, actuellement Chef d'Escadron au service Russe, portait sur son costume habituel les épaulettes de son rang et le sabre d'honneur qui lui a été donné par Sa Majesté l'Empereur. Le fils de Tykma Sardar, le petit Ouraz

[1792]

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Berdy, était déjà habillé en élève de la pension préparatoire de l'École de Cavalerie Nicolas, où il a été admis.

Parmi les députés se trouvaient deux Tékés récemment arrivés, Avez Kouly Sardar et Koulba Tyr. Son Altesse Impériale a reçu fort gracieusement la députation et c'est entretenue au moyen d'un interprète avec plusieurs de ses membres.

Les deux Tékés nouvellement arrivés ont supplié le Grand-Duc de leur faire obtenir le bonheur de voir le Tsar Blanc afin de pouvoir lui exprimer leurs sentiments de féaux sujets. Son Altesse Impériale a bien voulu serrer la main à Tykma Sardar, et faire quelques caresses à son fils. A l'observation du Grand-Duc que celui-ci allait s'ennuyer à St. Pétersbourg sans son père, le petit Téké a répondu qu'il n'aurait pas le temps de s'ennuyer, vu qu'il se disposait à apprendre avec la plus grande application. De retour à St. Pétersbourg, la députation est allée directement à la Chancellerie du Ministre de la Guerre, où les attendaient dans des cartons blancs les robes d'honneur à l'Orientale dont Sa Majesté l'Empereur a ordonné de les gratifier. Toutes ces robes, à l'exception de celle destinée à Tykma Sardar, sont en velours bleu doublées de soie et galonnées d'argent. Celle de Tykma Sardar est en velours ponceau à double rang de galon en argent. Ces robes ont été distribuées par M. le Gérant du Ministère de la Guerre lui-même, à l'exception de celle du petit Ouraz Berdy, qui porte déjà l'uniforme d'élève militaire. M. l'Aide-de-camp Général Vanovsky a adressé aux députés une courte allocution en les engageant à se livrer à des travaux pacifiques de retour dans leur patrie et à oublier leurs anciens exploits d'invasions. Les Tékés sont revenus enthousiasmés à l'hôtel Znamensky.

No. 21.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, June 29, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th instant, I think Askabad should be alluded to as the most south-eastern town of the Téké oasis, and not as the most southern town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 22.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, June 29, 1881.

I VENTURE to draw your Lordship's attention to a review in the semi-official "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of to-day of an article written by General Annenkow, entitled, "l'Oasis de l'Akhaltéké et les Routes de l'Inde."

The passage in the article in question, which is herewith inclosed, which appears to me to be most worthy of notice, is the one in which the prolongation of the railroad from Krasnovodsk to Kizil-Arvat and to "Serakes" is talked of. "Serakes" is probably the same place as "Sarakhs," on the River Tajend, as marked on the map of the Téké Turkoman country and surrounding districts, which has been supplied to Her Majesty's Embassy.

A suggestion is also thrown out that, were England to complete her system of railroads in the same direction (viz., Sarakhs) through Candahar and Herat, a rapid and regular communication from Europe to India, and from India to Europe, through Russia, would be established.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of June $\frac{17}{29}$, 1881.

LA "Nouvelle Revue" vient de publier deux articles remarquables sous le titre de "l'Oasis de l'Akhaltéké et les Routes de l'Inde."

Ces articles, empruntés à un de nos recueils périodiques, sont destinés à initier le public Européen aux vues qui ont cours parmi la haute administration Russe au sujet de l'Asie Centrale. Rien ne pouvait être plus opportun en présence de l'ignorance et des préjugés qui tendent à dénaturer la politique Russe dans ses rapports avec la politique Anglaise en Asie.

Ce travail remarquable est dû à la plume de M. le Général Annenkov, qui a longtemps résidé dans la steppe Turcomane, où il a été chargé en dernier lieu de l'établissement du chemin de fer de Krasnovodsk à Kizil-Arvat. Personne ne pouvait être mieux à même de traiter de l'avenir de ces contrées et des intérêts militaires, commerciaux, et politiques qui s'y rattachent.

Le public Européen aura enfin sous les yeux autre chose que des élucubrations fantaisistes sur ces pays inconnus, dépeints jusqu'ici, par de faux savants, sous des couleurs visiblement empruntées au prisme de l'esprit de parti politique. À vrai dire, ils étaient à peu près aussi ignorés de la Russie que de l'Europe, et l'obscurité se peuple facilement de fantômes.

Les points de vue de M. le Général Annenkov lui sont personnels. Mais ils ont cela de bon qu'ils sont basés sur une étude approfondie des localités et qu'ils émanent d'une autorité évidemment compétente par sa position.

Nul doute qu'ils n'aient beaucoup de retentissement.

Nous n'entrerons pas dans l'analyse de ce travail. Il doit être lu en entier.

Nous nous bornerons à en signaler l'esprit. L'auteur étudie, d'après les faits, la position respective de la Russie et de l'Angleterre en Asie, et c'est d'après leurs intérêts qu'il juge de leur politique. Assurément, on ne saurait trouver une base plus rationnelle.

Il est remarquable qu'il arrive par cette voie, essentiellement subjective, à la même conviction que le Gouvernement Russe a maintes fois exprimée d'après des considérations plutôt morales et diplomatiques, et qui a été partagée par plusieurs hommes d'État éminents de l'Angleterre : savoir, que les deux Empires n'ont aucun motif pour se placer en antagonisme en Asie, qu'il y a assez de place dans ce vaste continent pour qu'ils puissent se développer parallèlement chacun dans sa sphère naturelle, sans se heurter, et qu'enfin, autant ils peuvent se nuire réciproquement par une rivalité factice, autant ils peuvent se servir mutuellement et s'entr'aider par de bons procédés et des relations franchement amicales.

L'auteur va même plus loin et trace la voie pratique à suivre pour atteindre ce but.

C'est par le commerce qu'il établit le lien solide et durable qui doit unir les deux Empires au lieu de les diviser. Personne ne contestera certainement la puissance de ce lien, qui se resserre et se consolide à mesure qu'il se développe et multiplie les intérêts solidaires.

La route est déjà entr'ouverte par la construction du chemin de fer de Krasnovodsk. Lorsqu'il aura atteint Kizil-Arvat et sera prolongé jusqu'à Serakes, si de son côté l'Angleterre complète son réseau Indien dans la même direction par Kandahar et Hérat, les deux Empires auront marché à la rencontre l'un de l'autre, non plus par des intrigues politiques, des armées, des canons, des guerres dispendieuses et des excitations à la haine réciproque, mais par un des plus féconds instruments de civilisation pacifique qui existent. Quand une communication rapide et régulière d'Europe par la Russie aux Indes et des Indes par la Russie en Europe sera établie, une lutte entre les deux Empires sera hors de toute probabilité, la question Asiatique aura été irrévocablement, pacifiquement résolue au profit de tous les deux et pour le bien général de la civilisation et de l'humanité.

Il est possible que, de part et d'autre, les préjugés invétérés fassent envisager ces points de vue comme des rêveries utopiques. C'est le sort de beaucoup de vérités, de commencer par être taxées d'erreur.

Il n'en est pas moins remarquable, nous le répétons, qu'ils émanent d'une autorité Russe des plus compétentes et qu'ils sont fondés sur des considérations pratiques d'une incontestable valeur.

On peut donc hardiment prédire que ces idées feront leur chemin dans la conscience publique des deux pays, et pour notre part nous ne pouvons qu'y applaudir.

No. 23.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 5, 1881.

I HAVE to instruct you to make inquiries as to whether any map has been published in Russia showing the boundaries of the recently annexed territory in the Akhal country, and if such a map has been, or may be, published, to send home copies of it, in order that one may be placed in the Library of the House of Commons, in accordance with the promise made to that effect by Sir C. Dilke in the House on the 27th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Mr. Thomson.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 21, 1881.

CAN you obtain information for Parliament as to extent of Transcaspian territory annexed by Russia, and the places now occupied by her in that region?

No. 25.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22, 12.45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, July 22, 1881.

YOUR Lordship's telegram of yesterday.

Limits of Transcaspian country annexed by Russia have not yet been defined. The territory now occupied by her troops includes Chat, Duzolum, and the Akhal Téké region north of Kopet Dagh, as far as Askabad and Annow, latter being the most easterly point in her possession. Russian influence predominates in adjacent districts.

Demarcation of Russo-Persian frontier has not yet been commenced, and Russian Minister has informed me that his Government will not be in a position to enter upon discussion till beginning of next year.

Above information communicated to your Lordship in a despatch of 11th instant.

No. 26.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, July 19, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a general officer, who has been in the Téké country which has been recently annexed to the Russian Empire, and who has taken a leading part there in matters connected with the construction of railway communication, informed me to-day that the railway went as far as Kizil-Arvat, and that there was no intention of extending it further for the present. He also informed me, in reply to my inquiries, that there are towns in the Téké oasis recently annexed to Russia further south than Askabad, and that there are two towns named Sarakhs, both on the River Tajend, but on different banks opposite to each other—the one being a Persian town, the other a Turkoman town; consequently, he said, if the railroad were to be extended, there would be no necessity for interfering with the Persian town of that name.

No. 27.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, July 20, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to state that the Téké oasis lately annexed to Russia is thus described in an article by Lieutenant-General Annenkoff in the numbers of the "Nouvelle Revue" of June last:—"It commences at Kizil-Arvat, follows the line of the Kiourrem-Dagh and the Kopeth-Dagh, through Bami, Geuk-Tépé, and Askabad, as far as Sarakhs. The first part of this zone, which extends from Kizil-Arvat to Bami, is fertile, and abundantly supplied with water, but it cannot be compared with the second zone, which stretches from Bami, through Geuk-Tépé, as far as Askabad, and some miles further."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 28.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, July 20, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I asked Baron Jomini to-day whether the Imperial Government was making progress in their negotiations with Persia for a rectification of frontiers. His Excellency said they were not; that it was a very difficult matter to define what was Persian and what not in the district called Atrek, at the head waters of the Atrek, respecting which negotiations had been set on foot, and that it would be necessary to send a Commission of engineer officers to examine into the question on the spot. His Excellency said that some very fertile country had been found, but that it was overrun by Turkomans, and that it was necessary to establish some sort of order there.

I asked him if the Téké oasis extended as far as Sarakhs, and whether there were two towns of that name. His Excellency replied that he believed the Téké oasis extended as far as Askabad; that there was only one town called Sarakhs, and that it was a disputed point as to whether it was a Persian town or not.

I also asked his Excellency if the Russian Government was negotiating with regard to Khorassan and Kushan, and he replied in the negative, stating that they were purely Persian.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 29.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, July 20, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of to-day's date, and to previous despatches on the negotiations between Russia and Persia for a rectification of frontiers, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, an abstract from the Russian press on the advantages to Russia of the territory at the head waters of the Atrek, and on other points connected with her policy in Central Asia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Abstract from Russian Press.

THE "Moscow Gazette," in its issue of the 17th July, 1881, makes the following remarks on the subject of the statement of the Merv correspondent of the "Daily News," to the effect that the Russians were advancing eastwards in the direction of Meshed, that

they had occupied the northern bank of the Atrek River as far as Kuchan, and that they had established block-houses at a short distance from each other :—

“The road from Meshed to Herat is somewhat better than that from Merv, the only difference being that the first is very bad, while the second is almost impassable for a large detachment of troops. But this circumstance is of itself insufficient to justify the cry of alarm now raised in the English press with respect to Meshed in substitution of the former apprehensions in reference to Merv. In order to take advantage of the road from Meshed, the Russians must first reach Kuchan. The road thither from Chat leads across very high mountains and gorges, through which the Atrek in some places winds like a rivulet. This is almost as bad as the waterless route from Merv. It is only at the upper course of the river that a valley is shown on the map. Kuchan may be reached from Askabad by way of Shirvan, but this necessitates the crossing of the impassable Kopet-Dag range.

“English apprehensions are very strange in view of the fact that, from the Atrek, we must advance through Persian territory. If Persia were to open her gates to us, it would be more convenient for us to advance along the southern routes, as the English newspapers themselves acknowledge. Even if it be necessary to employ force, this line of march would be preferable. It is doubtful whether a detachment strong enough for the capture of Meshed could be marched to Kuchan. From Askabad, Chat, or the upper valley of the Atrek, we equally cannot advance without the consent of Persia or a war with her.

“The upper course of the Atrek possesses importance to us, more especially with a view to the pacification of the Téké oasis ; but this oasis is as yet little known.

“As regards the alarm expressed on the subject of our further advance and our new seizures along the Atrek, the English papers, it would seem, have fallen into error, and also into contradiction. According to the last Treaty concluded between Russia and Persia, the frontier between them in the Trans-Caspian region was determined along the course of the Atrek. This Treaty has not been published, the details are unknown ; but it is impossible to suppose that Persia has reserved for herself the middle and upper course of the Atrek, seeing that even now she exercises no authority to the northward of that river. The English newspapers state that the late General Petrushevitch was of opinion that the Persian boundary ran north of Kuchan—that is, in every case south of the Kopet-Dag. General Petrushevitch was, in all probability, acquainted with the provisions of our Treaty with Persia. But if our boundary with Persia has been fixed to the southward of the Kopet-Dag, in such case the valley of the upper waters of the Atrek must, if not altogether, then in part, even if not as far as Kuchan, be included within Russian confines. Kuchan of itself possesses no signification ; for Russia, as well as for all parties interested, considerable importance may be attached to our occupation of some portion of the valley of the upper waters of the Atrek—say, the northern portion. The great thing for us alone is, that we should firmly establish ourselves somewhere at the head waters of the Atrek. In every case, nobody can reasonably expect that we should not advance in Central Asia, or abandon that which belongs to us by former Treaties.

“It is, however, doubtful whether our pickets are now stationed on the upper course of the Atrek. It is surmised that the reports of the correspondent of the ‘Daily News’ are somewhat premature.

“The frontier between Persia and the Akhal Téké country may be said to be almost entirely undefined, but between ourselves and Persia there exist other frontier questions in the Trans-Caspian region. The fact of the matter is, that in concluding the latest Treaty with Persia, neither we nor the former paid any attention to the Turkomans, and drew the frontier-line promiscuously along the lower course of the Atrek River. The result of this was, that an enormous portion of the Turkomans, so-called peaceable—the Jomuds, Hoklans, Djeffebaitré, Attabaitré, and others—became the subjects of both Russia and Persia. They pass the winter between the Atrek and Giurgan, on Persian territory, and pitch their camps in summer at the Balkans, along the Uzboi, &c. Our authority over the Turkoman has hitherto been nominal : true, they accept Elders chosen from their midst by the Russian authorities, and recognize their position ; but they will only submit to their own Ak-sakals, and they pay Russia no taxes. Persia’s authority over them is still less, although 3,000 Goklan Kibitkas pay her a yearly tribute of 180,000 roubles, and the Jomuds nomadizing along the course of the Kara-Su pay a certain sum for the right of pasturing their cattle on the opposite bank of the river. Vambéry, who visited the country in 1863, states that no Persian is seen north of the Giurgan unless with a rope round his neck. M. Stebnitsky, in 1872, ascertained that the Turkomans were not paying any tribute to Persia, and only the Jomuds along the Kara-Su made presents to the Persian officials.

"Now that the Akhal country has been conquered, it will be necessary to introduce a real authority, and to put an end to the eternal conflicts between the 'peaceful' Turkomans and the Tékés. In order to do so, it will be necessary to do away with their double nationality. Russia has done so much in protecting the Caspian provinces of Persia, that she has a right to expect the co-operation of Persia in the common cause. Moreover, it would not cost much to purchase from Persia the strips of land situated between the Atrek and Giurgan."

No. 30.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 28, 1881, 3 P.M.

YOUR despatch of 19th.

Do your best to ascertain as soon as possible what are the towns south of Askabad annexed to Russia.

No. 31.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received July 29, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburg, July 29, 1881, 2P.M.

YOUR telegram of yesterday.

M. Jomini stated to me last Wednesday that Askabad was their furthest point now in Trans-Caspian territory, and M. de Giers had also told me this, but I will endeavour to obtain further information.

No. 32.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received August 1.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, July 27, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I asked Baron Jomini to-day (M. de Giers being absent from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs) if he could give me an idea of what the territory was which was termed "Trans-Caspian." His Excellency replied that it was "all the territory beyond the Caspian." "But," I said, "can you give me no idea as to where it ends?" to which he said that he could not, that the negotiations with Persia had not yet commenced, but that for long Russia had been established on the lower part of the River Atrek, but that the time had now come to determine what was really Persian territory and what was not elsewhere, and that the question being one of an exceedingly complicated and difficult nature, a special Commission would have to examine it on the spot. His Excellency said that their farthest point now was Askabad, but that General Skobeleff had discovered some very fertile country further south, where a complete state of disorder existed; that there was Sarakhs also to be considered, and whether it was Persian or not remained to be verified. If Persian, that then it would remain so, but if not, that it would then be necessary to establish some regular form of Government there as elsewhere ("un ordre de choses établi"), and that the frontier negotiations would probably extend to territory beyond the Atrek as far as the confines of Khorassan, over which, Baron Jomini to-day, threw doubts as to the sovereignty of the Shah of Persia being more than nominal.

No. 33.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received August 5.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburg, August 5, 1881.

MY telegram of the 29th ultimo.

Secretary of State states that General Rohrberg's head-quarters are at Askabad; that there may be a few troops at Gavers; that troops have marched as far south as Luftabad,

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but that they have returned. He looks upon country immediately surrounding Askabad as the present southern boundary of Téké oasis.

No. 34.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(Extract.)

Tehran, July 11, 1881.

I UNDERSTAND that none of the districts south of the range of the Kopet Dagh have been occupied by the Russian troops, and that Annow is the most easterly point at present in their possession.

Russian officers have, with the assent of the Persian Government, been engaged for a considerable length of time in surveying the whole tract of country between the Akhal hills and Boojnoord, Kuchan, and Dereghez. I am informed, however, by M. Zinoviev, my Russian colleague, that the General in command of the Russian troops in Akhal has written to him to say that it will take at least another nine months for the necessary maps to be finished and printed, and that it will be impossible to commence negotiations for the demarcation of the Russo-Persian frontier until these maps are completed, and they have been officially sanctioned by the Russian Government.

No. 35.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, August 3, 1881.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 28th ultimo I had the honour to inform your Lordship that on Wednesday, the 27th ultimo, Baron Jomini stated to me that Askabad was at present the furthest Russian point in the Trans-Caspian territory, and that M. de Giers had already given me information to the same effect. I, however, on the $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁷₉th July, addressed a private note to M. de Giers, in which I asked him to be so good as to let me know the names of the towns further south than Askabad in the territory recently annexed to Russia. On the following day I received his Excellency's reply, written from Peterhof, copy of which is inclosed, in which he states that all he can say is that Russia occupies Askabad, and that he does not know of any town further south than that point as being occupied by Russian troops, but that, in order to give me a more positive answer, he would inquire into the subject and consult a map as soon as he went to the Ministry.

I called upon his Excellency to-day, the day in the week on which he usually receives the Diplomatic Body, but it being a holiday his Excellency had not come to town. I will, however, endeavour to see him to-morrow.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 35.

M. de Giers to Mr. Wyndham.

(Extrait.)

Peterhof, le $\frac{1}{30}$ ⁸₀ Juillet, 1881.

TOUT ce que je puis vous dire en réponse à votre billet d'hier c'est que nous occupons Askabad et que je ne connais pas de ville au sud de ce point qui soit occupée pas nos troupes. D'ailleurs, pour vous donner une réponse plus positive je vais prendre des informations et consulter la carte aussitôt que j'irai au Ministère.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

Peterhof, July $\frac{1}{30}$ ⁸₀, 1881.

ALL that I can say in reply to your note of yesterday is that we occupy Askabad, and that I know no town south of this point occupied by our troops. In order to give you a more positive answer, however, I will obtain information and consult the map as soon as I get to the Office.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received August 15.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, August 10, 1881.

THE questions which have been lately asked in the House of Commons as to Russian policy in Central Asia have naturally called forth remarks in the St. Petersburg press, and I have the honour to inclose herewith a précis of an article from the "Herald," a paper published here in German, but which has no official character, and of two articles from the semi-official "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" which appear worthy of attention, as they have all the appearance of emanating from an official source.

With regard to Merv, your Lordship will observe that it is stated that the Russian Government has never taken any engagement. The article states:—

"Le Gouvernement Russe n'a jamais pris aucun engagement au sujet de Merv. Il n'avait pas à en prendre. Il a eu égard aux inquiétudes que le Cabinet de Londres témoignait sur ce point, et loin de repousser ses interpellations, comme il en aurait eu incontestablement le droit, il a très franchement et très amicalement fait part de ses intentions, qu'il n'avait pas à cacher parce qu'elles étaient parfaitement loyales et dictées par ces légitimes intérêts. Il a toujours déclaré qu'il n'avait aucun projet, ni aucun avantage à aller à Merv, ni à y rester, mais que si les Merviens obligeaient nos troupes par leurs agressions à les poursuivre jusque là, et à détruire ce repaire de brigands, la Russie se réservait une complète liberté d'action."

The article goes on to explain the reasons which necessitated the late attack upon, and annexation of, the Téké country.

The Earl of Dufferin reported conversations which he had held with M. de Giers on the policy of Russia with regard to Merv in his despatches of the 8th March last,* and of the 14th April last, and to which I venture to refer your Lordship with reference to the statements contained in the articles herewith inclosed from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Précis of Article in the "St. Petersburg Herald" of July ²⁵ August 6, 1881.

ENGLAND AND THE RUSSO-PERSIAN FRONTIER.—Whilst the struggle in Afghanistan and the interference of England in that country, which will be sooner or later inevitable, only indirectly affects Russia, in so far as it may upset the Gladstone Cabinet, or force the Ministry to change their front, Her Majesty's Government are most desirous to take part in the Russo-Persian frontier demarcation, as being a matter affecting British interests. So moderate a politician as Lord Hartington has declared that the annexation of the Akhal Téké oasis, and the extension of Russia to the north of Persia, as also the matter of delimitating the new frontier, is not indifferent to England. We readily believe that his Lordship takes an interest in all this, but what practical shape can he give to this interest? Another M.P., Mr. Campbell, has publicly stated that England has neither the power nor the right to check Russia's expansion in the regions of Central Asia, lying as that country does quite out of reach of England's fleets and influence. And is this not the case? The annexation of the Akhal Téké oasis has been accomplished, without the leave of England or any other Power having been asked. Similarly the annexation of, or Protectorate over Merv, will be a matter only concerning Russia and the Turkomans, and will be announced to the world as a *fait accompli*.

As an excuse for interference, the English would like to have the Merv Turkomans recognized by Europe, as has been mooted in the letters of the correspondent of the "Daily News," now imprisoned in that place; but as what, and how are these wild Turcoman warriors to be recognized? "Give us help," they will cry, and England, by this practical question, will recognize the impossibility of a Protectorate. This question of Merv will, however, be of greater interest, when we know the result of the last Merv Turkoman mission to St. Petersburg.

* See "Central Asia No. 3 (1881)," No. 47.

But with regard to the demarcation of the new Russo-Persian frontier diplomatic action has already commenced. In this matter England thinks she has a voice, Persia being recognized by Europe, and she has already claimed to be officially represented by a Commissioner in the work of marking out the frontier. We believe this question was first raised last month, during the visit of the English squadron to these waters; we do not know what answer was made, but a good guess can be made as to its tenour. It was stated in Parliament that the negotiations would not take place for some months; the "delay" thus alluded to is but a polite way of saying "no." Lord Hartington's answer in the House proves, however, that this claim has not been abandoned, but it will, when next presented, be met by a similar answer, for, since the frontier concerns an annexation which has been already carried out, England, if she obtained her wish, would acquire a sort of retrospective influence in a matter which has been already completed. It may, therefore, be taken for granted that, except perhaps in the form of a confidential communication, no further English interference in the frontier question will be tolerated. This question of the demarcation of the frontier between Persia and the newly annexed Akhal Téké oasis is purely a question between Persia and the present Ruler of that territory, and the interference of any third party would only have a disturbing influence. The solution of this question can only be looked at from one point of view, viz., that Russia may obtain a safe defensive frontier, and ensure a sufficient supply of water and food. If even Persia loses somewhat, it would be but "strips of frontier," over which she exercises but a purely nominal control, and in which she is powerless to prevent brigandage. This security of frontier is necessary to Russia, and no one will be able to hold her back from obtaining it. Russia has another advantage in her hands, she can play a waiting game in this frontier question; a postponement of it is all to her advantage, since the stronger Power is sure to win in the long run. Russia will not, therefore, now refuse England's wishes, but will merely postpone the question until she considers it ripe for solution, and this moment may come any day, as a consequence of the prolonged struggle in Afghanistan.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of July ²⁶ August 7, 1881.

LES lauriers du "Morning Post," du "Daily Telegraph," et des autres défenseurs de la politique Impériale de Lord Beaconsfield et du Marquis de Salisbury causent des insomnies à la "Gazette de Moscou." Dans la revue politique du 21 Juillet, cette honorable feuille se plaint de la trop grande déférence et même de l'humilité de la politique Russe en Asie vis-à-vis des prétentions et des susceptibilités de l'Angleterre. Celle-ci ne se gêne pas pour permettre à Londres des meetings dirigés contre la Russie, où l'on prêche ouvertement le régicide. Pourquoi donc avons-nous arrêté notre marche victorieuse dans les steppes Turcomanes par égard pour les appréhensions que causent aux Indes nos mouvements sur la route d'Hérat? Pourquoi faisons-nous des cérémonies avec l'Angleterre, qui en fait si peu avec nous?

A première vue, nous n'apercevons guère le rapport qu'il y a entre les meetings socialistes de Londres et l'Asie-Centrale. Ce sont là, ce nous semble, deux questions parfaitement distinctes.

En Asie-Centrale, nous ne pensons pas que le Cabinet Anglais actuel ait abandonné Caboul, Kandahar, et la "frontière scientifique" par égard pour la Russie. Mr. Gladstone a tout bonnement calculé que la politique de provocation, de conquêtes et d'annexations était plus nuisible qu'utile à la sécurité de l'Angleterre; que plus celle-ci étendait les limites de sa domination, plus elle se rendait vulnérable, plus elle multipliait ses difficultés et par conséquent aussi les charges qu'elle devait s'imposer; et qu'en définitive cette politique aboutissait à des sacrifices hors de proportion avec les satisfactions de l'amour-propre national.

C'est une preuve de bon sens qui fait honneur à Mr. Gladstone.

Il en est absolument de même de la politique que le Gouvernement Russe a suivie en Asie. Ce n'est assurément pas pour notre plaisir ou par vanité que nous avons mis le pied dans la steppe Turcomane, mais par nécessité. Notre position militaire y était intolérable. Les Turcomans-Tékés, excités, instruits, armés et conseillés par les officiers Anglais comme MM. Napier, Butler, &c., devenaient des voisins impossibles. Les expéditions périodiques entreprises pour réprimer leur turbulence entraînaient des dépenses considérables sans résultats, car la retraite de nos troupes,

après le châtiement de ces pillards, détruisait tout l'effet moral de nos opérations. Il fallait ou avancer ou reculer afin de s'établir solidement. Avancer nécessitait la perte de millions, mais reculer semblait encore plus dangereux et plus onéreux, car alors la steppe étant abandonnée aux Turcomans, ceux-ci ayant tout le loisir de s'organiser, de s'armer et de s'exercer avec l'aide de leurs bons amis, deviendraient de plus en plus entreprenants et ils pouvaient finir par entraîner les Khiviens et les Boukhares. Il aurait par conséquent fallu garnir de troupes toute la ligne d'Astrakhan et doubler, tripler le chiffre de nos forces militaires dans le Turkestan, dont la steppe Turcomane constitue le flanc droit. Tout cela aurait fini par coûter gros. Voilà pourquoi, malgré le désagrément d'engloutir 20,000,000 dans des sables, alors que la Russie a tant de dépenses productives à faire chez elle, notre Gouvernement s'est décidé à prendre une position avancée et permanente dans la steppe.

C'était une opération purement défensive et qui devait tout naturellement s'arrêter aux limites exigées par notre sécurité. Aller au delà aurait été suivre l'exemple de Lord Beaconsfield et s'exposer à des aventures dangereuses et coûteuses. Le Gouvernement Russe a préféré imiter le bon sens de Mr. Gladstone, non pour complaire aux susceptibilités Anglaises, mais par les mêmes motifs de politique rationnelle. Nous ne voyons donc pas pourquoi nous devrions compromettre des intérêts aussi sérieux, uniquement parce qu'il plaît aux socialistes de tenir des meetings à Londres et au Gouvernement Anglais de les tolérer.

Inclosure 3 in No. 36.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of ^{July} August 9, 1881.

NOUS n'avons pas voulu apprécier le discours de Lord Hartington en réponse à l'interpellation de Sir Ashmead Bartlett d'après le compte-rendu télégraphique, sachant combien la télégraphie dénature souvent le sens des paroles.

Nous avons sous les yeux le texte de ce discours tel que nous l'avons reproduit hier et nous nous faisons un devoir de rendre justice à la modération, à la retenue, et à la convenance du langage de Lord Hartington. Il aurait certainement pu être plus explicite en réfutant les insanités mises en avant par Sir Ashmead Bartlett sur le compte de la politique Russe. Mais il ne faut pas oublier que le Marquis de Hartington parlait devant une assemblée habituée à entendre et à accueillir les accusations les plus odieuses au sujet de la Russie, et pour laquelle tout jugement impartial, toute parole bienveillante à l'égard de cette Puissance constituent une innovation hardie. Il faut donc tenir compte à l'orateur d'avoir eu le courage de sa modération.

Il n'y a qu'un point de fait que nous croyons devoir relever dans son discours—c'est celui qui a trait aux prétendus engagements contractés par le Gouvernement Russe au sujet de l'oasis des Tékés, engagements dont l'annexion de cette oasis serait une violation. Lord Hartington ne s'est pas catégoriquement prononcé sur ce point. Il a fait observer qu'on pourrait dire beaucoup dans un sens et dans l'autre.

Il aurait pu être plus explicite. Le Gouvernement Russe n'a jamais pris aucun engagement au sujet de Merv. Il n'avait pas à en prendre. Il a eu égard aux inquiétudes que le Cabinet de Londres témoignait sur ce point, et, loin de repousser ses interpellations, comme il en aurait eu incontestablement le droit, il a très franchement et très amicalement fait part de ses intentions, qu'il n'avait pas à cacher parce qu'elles étaient parfaitement loyales et dictées par ses légitimes intérêts. Il a toujours déclaré qu'il n'avait aucun projet ni aucun avantage à aller à Merv ni à y rester, mais que si les Merviens obligeaient nos troupes par leurs agressions à les poursuivre jusque-là et à détruire ce repaire de brigands, la Russie se réservait une complète liberté d'action.

Ces assurances ont été données lorsque les arrangements généraux pris par l'Angleterre et la Russie dans l'Asie-Centrale subsistaient encore dans leur lettre et dans leur esprit. Lorsque l'attitude agressive de Lord Beaconsfield en Europe et en Asie les eut déchirés, le Gouvernement Russe devait naturellement se considérer comme d'autant plus libre de ses actions; néanmoins ses vues au sujet de Merv n'ont point changé, parce qu'elles étaient fondées sur des considérations et des intérêts permanents qui ne pouvaient pas dépendre des convenances d'un Cabinet étranger.

Lord Hartington a reconnu lui-même "qu'il n'y a aucune relation entre l'entrée des troupes Anglaises dans l'Afghanistan et l'occupation par la Russie du territoire des Akhal-Téké." Cependant il a terminé son discours en affirmant "qu'une occu-

patron permanente de Kandahar par l'Angleterre aurait été une raison insuffisante pour le mouvement en avant de la Russie."

Ces deux assertions sont également vraies. Le Gouvernement Russe ne poursuit dans ces contrées d'autre intérêt que celui de la tranquillité et de la sécurité de ses frontières. Mais il est certain que cette tranquillité et cette sécurité peuvent exiger des mesures de précaution plus ou moins étendues, selon qu'elles se trouvent plus ou moins mises en péril par la situation politique dans son voisinage immédiat. Or, on conviendra que l'entrée des armées Anglaises à Kandahar et à Caboul, ainsi que l'esprit ouvertement hostile de la politique du Comte de Beaconsfield en Europe et en Asie, devaient accroître les légitimes appréhensions de la Russie du côté de la steppe Turcomane, où la présence d'officiers Anglais, et les facilités que les Tékés devaient trouver dans la proximité des troupes Britanniques pour s'armer, s'organiser, et s'instruire militairement, constituaient un danger très sérieux. Ce fut alors que le Gouvernement Russe délibéra sur les mesures de précaution à prendre et se décida, après mûre délibération, et par les motifs que nous avons exposés avant-hier, à entreprendre l'expédition confiée d'abord au Général Lazarew, puis au Général Tergoukassow, et enfin au Général Skobélew.

Nous l'avons dit, et nous le répétons, cette expédition dispendieuse et pénible, sans compensations probables, était imposée par la nécessité. Elle n'avait en vue que notre sécurité défensive. Mais c'était là un intérêt de premier ordre, devant lequel notre Gouvernement ne pouvait pas hésiter.

Lorsque les électeurs Anglais eurent condamné la politique aventureuse de Lord Beaconsfield, et que l'avènement de Mr. Gladstone eut ramené les relations de l'Angleterre et de la Russie, en Europe comme en Asie, dans une voie pacifique et amicale, la presse Anglaise crut pouvoir en inférer que l'évacuation de Caboul et de Kandahar par les Anglais amènerait le Gouvernement Russe à renoncer à l'expédition projetée dans la steppe. Ces conclusions étaient erronées. Il ne dépendait pas du Gouvernement Russe d'abandonner ce projet. D'abord il lui était impossible de rester sous le coup de l'insuccès des opérations du Général Lazarew. Quiconque connaît les Asiates sait fort bien qu'ils ne respectent que la force. Le prestige de la Russie aurait été irrévocablement détruit, les Tékés enhardis, la sécurité de nos possessions en Asie sérieusement menacée. Il fallait donc absolument infliger aux Turcomans une leçon sévère. Notre Gouvernement n'a pas caché cette nécessité au Cabinet Anglais, qui l'a parfaitement comprise.

Quant aux résultats possibles de l'expédition, il n'a pris, et n'avait à prendre, aucun engagement. Il a renouvelé l'assurance qu'il n'était guidé par aucune pensée hostile à l'Angleterre, que quant à Merv, ses intentions n'avaient pas changé, et qu'il n'irait jusque-là, si les Merviens l'y forçaient par leurs agressions; il ne cacha pas que la présence et la conduite des officiers Anglais qui excitaient et dirigeaient les Merviens était de nature à rendre cette éventualité inévitable. Il déclara que son seul but était d'établir sur des bases solides la sécurité des possessions Russes dans ces contrées, afin de ne pas se trouver dans le cas de renouveler périodiquement des expéditions ruineuses, sans résultats durables, et qui seraient toujours à recommencer. Les mesures propres à réaliser ce but dépendaient évidemment de l'issue de la campagne, et de ce que le Commandant-en-chef rapporterait de la situation de ces contrées encore inconnues. Mais ce but, la Russie était résolue à l'atteindre complètement et à tout prix. C'était son devoir et son droit.

Tel a été le sens des déclarations faites par notre Gouvernement. Elles étaient parfaitement honnêtes et loyales, dictées par le simple bon sens; ses intentions ne pouvaient pas être autres. Il n'en a fait aucun mystère, il n'en a pas dévié, et n'en déviara pas. Cela n'empêche nullement les égards dus aux intérêts d'un Gouvernement qui se montre animé de sentiments amicaux et pacifiques, ni les ménagements que réclame sa position particulière. Ces bons procédés réciproques sont nécessaires au maintien des relations de bonne intelligence avantageuses aux deux pays. Ils sont parfaitement compatibles avec le maintien et la défense de leurs intérêts respectifs, qui ne sont nullement inconciliables du moment où ils sont appréciés et traités de part et d'autre dans un esprit d'équité et de bon vouloir mutuel.

Nous sommes persuadés qu'il en sera ainsi et qu'il en résultera en définitive, non seulement la cessation d'un antagonisme fatal qui n'a pas de raison d'être, mais encore la conviction d'une complète solidarité.

Quant aux insanités de Sir Ashmead Bartlett, nous n'avons rien à en dire. Il est triste de voir de pareilles diatribes outrageuses envers une grande nation, débitées dans une assemblée aussi respectable que la Chambre des Communes. L'Angleterre a toujours eu ses originaux, mais la politique n'est pas le terrain convenable pour de

semblables excentricités, et Lord Hartington les a justement appréciées en ne les prenant pas au sérieux.

No. 37.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, August 17, 1881.

THE "Novoe Vremya" of the 2nd/₁₄th instant, in a leading article, makes the following remarks with reference to the transformation of the Transcaspian military section into a distinct administrative region, and to which I have the honour of calling your Lordship's attention:—

"We will not discuss the administrative partition of the region, so extensive in area and so thinly populated, as in all probability further modifications in respect to its government will be introduced. We may, however, mention that, according to current reports, it is intended to form several battalions of the line in the new region. The headquarters of General Röhrberg, the Commander of the troops and Governor of the region, have been transferred to Askabad, which was done at the suggestion of General Skobelev, who considered that, in view of the dangerous proximity of Merv, and in order to follow the movements of the Tékés, the Chief of the region should reside at one of the advanced points. A large fort has been constructed at Askabad capable of accommodating 3,000 men, and in all probability several intermediate forts will be erected. A brigade of infantry and one of cavalry, together with a large number of guns, have been left, for the purpose of satisfying the military necessities of the region.

"Thus, with the establishment of central military departments of all branches, as well as of administrative Courts, for dealing with the requirements of the native population in legal and other respects, and with the completion of 200 versts of railway, the Transcaspian region loses its former comparative insignificance in pecuniary and administrative respects, seeing especially that the cost involved in the occupation of the region will amount annually to several millions of roubles.

"Assuming that the oasis lately annexed by us commences at Bami and terminates at Gowars (north-east of Askabad), its entire length may be calculated at 180 versts, with a population of 60,000 inhabitants. These figures are approximate, as the maps, drawn up on the basis of recent topographical surveys, contain no information as to the numerical strength of the population. For the same reason we are unable to define the new mountain frontier with the Persian provinces of Budjunur, Kuchan, and Khorassan, although a definite delimitation of the frontier with Khorassan possesses special interest and importance for Russia. It is to be hoped, however, that the delimitation will be effected with all due regard to Russian interests, a careful survey having been made by General Skobelev, after the termination of military operations, of the country along the whole of the Kopet-Dagh range from Lufti-Abata to Bami."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 38.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, September 18, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordships' information, a statement extracted from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of to-day, according to which the military Trans-Caspian railway is completed, the terminus being Kizil-Arvat.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of September 18, 1881.

ON télégraphique de Krasnovodsk à "L'Invalide Russe" que le chemin de fer militaire de la Trans-Caspie est terminé, les rails ayant été posés jusqu'à la station de Kizil-Arvat, qui en forme l'extrémité.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg; September 22, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation from the St. Petersburg Russian "Gazette," detailing the Russian troops in the Akhal Téké oasis, to which I beg to call your Lordship's attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Extract from the "St. Petersburg Gazette" of September 15, 1881.

(Translation.)

THE "St. Petersburg Gazette" of the ^{3rd}_{15th} September, 1881, gives the following account of the number of Russian troops, &c., in the Akhal Téké oasis:—

"For a long time the Russian press has not contained any information respecting the troops stationed in the Trans-Caspian region, nor of the existing state of things in the newly-acquired Akhal Téké oasis, notwithstanding that this region was but recently the object of great interest. At present all the troops of General Skobelev's detachment have been sent back to the Caucasus, and only a comparatively insignificant force is now stationed in the Trans-Caspian region. This force consists of one brigade of the 19th Division, commanded by Major-General Count Borch, and is composed of the Stavropol and Kryni regiments; of the Attaman regiment of Cossacks; of two sotnias of the Labinsky regiment of Cossacks; of four batteries of the 19th brigade of artillery (Colonel Heintz, commander); of the 6th mountain battery of the 21st artillery brigade (Lieutenant-Colonel Bobrikoff in command), and of the 2nd company of the 1st Sapper Battalion of the Caucasus.

"The Military Governor of the Trans-Caspian region is Lieutenant-General Rehrberg, and Colonel Baron Aminoff, of the Etat-Major, is the chief of his staff. The artillery is commanded by Colonel Heintz, commander of the 4th battery of the 21st brigade. The military head-quarters and administrative centre of the region are at Askabad, at which place are also concentrated the commissariat and military stores, as are also the artillery park and hospital.

"Since the capture of Geuk-Tépé, the conquered region has been in a state of complete tranquillity. The Tékéés have apparently become reconciled to the new condition of things, and with the exception of a few have returned to their Settlements, resumed their peaceful occupations, and commenced trading with the garrisons of the fortified posts. Askabad is the military *point d'appui* in the Téké oasis. Its earthworks have been completed, but their extension is at present contemplated. Geuk-Tépé, the former Akhal stronghold, has been abandoned owing to its great size necessitating the maintenance of a large garrison for its occupation, as also in consequence of its unhealthiness arising from the poisonous exhalations emitted by the human bodies and remains of animals killed during the siege, and remaining unburied within and outside its walls. A new and smaller fortification has been erected at a distance of 2½ versts from Geuk-Tépé, in the Hermav defile. Among other fortifications may be mentioned those of Kizil-Arvat, Bendessen Duz-ulum, Chat, and lastly, Mikhailofsky fort, Tchikishlar, and Krasnovodsk. As regards the railway, its construction has been extended from Mikhailofsky to Kizil-Arvat, and regular railway traffic is maintained along this distance. At present there is no intention of pushing on the construction of the railway beyond the above point. From Kizil-Arvat to Askabad, and from Bami to Tchikishlar, the roads have been so improved that they are easily traversed by wheeled vehicles. The troops stationed in the region are distributed as follows:—

"Askabad is occupied by the Stavropol regiment, the 4th battery of the 19th brigade, the sappers, and the 2nd and 3rd sotnias of the Attaman Cossack regiment. The Krym regiment occupies the Attrek and Mikhailofsky lines; the 6th mountain battery is distributed among the different forts. The 2nd sotnia of the Labinsky Cossack regiment is stationed at Chat, Duz-ulum, and Hodja-Kala. The 5th sotnia of the Attaman regiment is quartered at Bezmein. The 1st sotnia of the same regiment is at Kizil-Arvat. Lastly, the 4th sotnia of the Attaman regiment occupies the Chuli defile, on the Persian frontier, at a distance of 40 versts from Askabad. All the troops are

provisioned partly from Persian territory and partly by the Tékés. Stores that cannot be obtained on the spot are forwarded from the Caucasus, their transport from Mikhailofsky occupying from four to six days.

"The sanitary condition of the troops at the present moment is sufficiently satisfactory; in the Téké oasis it is very good. As regards the wounded soldiers left behind in the local hospitals, those that survived have all been transported to the Caucasus. It is a curious fact that all the wounded officers that were not treated by the medical *personnel* of the Red Cross died in hospital, notwithstanding that many of them were but slightly injured. Nearly all cases involving amputation terminated fatally. The medical branch is in a very unsatisfactory condition, the best surgeons having left the country. The Trans-Caspian region has not yet been properly organized. It is, however, intended to divide it into three districts:—

"1. The Geuk-Tépé district, which will include the extent of country from Bami to Askabad. The latter will be the chief town of the district.

"2. The Attrek district, from Chekishler to Bami, with Duz-ulum for its chief town; and lastly—

"3. Krasnovodsk, which will be constituted out of the present Kradnovodsk and Mangyshliak circuits. This district will stretch from Krasnovodsk to Aleksandrofsk, and thence to Bami. Krasnovodsk will be its chief town."

No. 40.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(Extract.)

Tehran, August 24, 1881.

AT an interview which I had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 20th instant I inquired if any progress had been made with respect to the settlement of the Russo-Persian boundary in Khorassan. His Excellency replied that negotiations had not yet commenced with that object, and that the Russian Minister had made no communication to him lately on the subject. He was aware, he said, that Russian officers had been engaged for several months in making surveys in various districts within the Persian territory adjacent to the frontier, and he believed that their work was now approaching completion, but with the exception of the tract of country lying between the Kopet Dagh and the Attrek River near Boojnoord and Kuchan, he was unable to define accurately the districts where the surveys had been made.

No. 41.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

My Lord,

Tehran, September 1, 1881.

MR. WYNDHAM, in his despatch of the 20th July, reports a statement made to him by Baron Jomini in the course of conversation respecting the Russo-Persian frontier, that there was only one town called Sarakhs, and that it was a disputed point as to whether it was a Persian town or not.

I am aware that in maps published by the Russian Government at St. Petersburg in 1823 Sarakhs was excluded from the Persian territory, but there cannot be the slightest doubt that it belongs to Persia as much as Kelat or Kuchan, or any other frontier town governed by Persian officials and held by Persian troops.

The present fort or town of Sarakhs was built by the Persians, and it has remained continuously in their possession, garrisoned by Persian soldiers for the last twenty-five years. The garrison now consists of 400 regular infantry and six guns, and for many years the force maintained there has seldom been reduced below this number.

By permission of the Persian Government the Tékés who now occupy Merv, when migrating from Akhal, were allowed for a time to settle on the Tejjen and Sarakhs lands, but their presence there having been found inconvenient they were expelled in 1857-58, when they proceeded to Merv and dispossessed the Saryk and Salar Turkomans of that territory which was then in their occupation.

The Persians had previously constructed a fort which they called Sarakhs on the right bank of the Tejjen River, near the site of the present town.

The position had not been well selected, being too much exposed to Turkoman attack, and it was therefore destroyed by order of the Persian Government, who then caused the

present fort to be built on the left bank of the river, on the road from Meshed to Merv, and half way between the two places.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 42.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 4, 1881.

THE "Novosti" newspaper of the ^{21st September}_{3rd October} reproduces the following account from the "Baku Intelligence" respecting the state of affairs at Askabad:—

"Russian activity at Askabad is manifesting itself by the construction of various buildings for quartering troops, the soldiery being employed in erecting the buildings. An officer has arrived at Baku charged with the commission of purchasing various fittings for 300 huts. A small town is being formed out of the new settlement, which now occupies a considerable portion of Askabad. The Téké quarter, with its purely native population, is still nearly deserted, and is divided from the Russian settlement by a rivulet. The Tékés are gradually returning to their old habitations and plots of land, which they generally find occupied by the Russians. Compensation is, in most cases, given, and they settle elsewhere. The Tékés continue to repose confidence in the Russian authorities, willingly seek the advice of the military surgeon, and even enter Russian hospitals for treatment. They show great respect and liking for the Russian officers, who treat them with kindness and humanity; towards the soldiers, however, they show great dislike, owing to the harsh character of the latter, and the recent cruel experience of their fighting powers.

"The Tékés are a tractable people, and now that they are humiliated, impoverished, and destitute, anything may be done with them. The Persians, perceiving that their warlike neighbours are unarmed, and remembering the sufferings they endured at Téké hands, are growing more and more daring. Attacks and armed raids occur from time to time. A herd of 500 camels belonging to the Tékés was recently driven off by the Persians. The Tékés readily engage in the work of constructing forts, and sometimes as many as 400 work together. They are good workmen with the shovel, but do not understand carpentering, masonry, &c."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 43.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 8, 1881.

ACCORDING to the "Baku Intelligence," the Trans-Caspian Military Railway will soon be purchased by a Russian firm which has extensive business transactions in the Trans-Caspian and the Caucasus. It is not intended to continue the railway beyond Kizil-Arvat, but a project exists to construct a tramway as far as Bami, which would leave only 180 versts of post-road to Askabad. This journey is now divided into four stages. There is a small fortified post at each station, and houses are kept there for the use of Government officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 44.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 24.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 20, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a telegram from Bami, dated the ^{26th September}_{8th October}, states that a deputation, consisting of nineteen Merv Elders, has arrived at

Askabad. The deputation is said to be charged with the presentation of a letter from Baba Khan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 45.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 24.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 20, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation by Mr. Consul Michell of an article published in the "Invalide Russe" on the $\frac{4}{16}$ th instant, giving the result of an analysis which has been made of the well and river waters in the Trans-Caspian region.

The waters thus tested are stated to be unfit for consumption, and from their hardness to be unsuitable for use in steam boilers, and for other technical purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Extract from the "Invalide Russe" of October $\frac{4}{16}$, 1881.

(Translation from the Russian.)

BY order of the Military Medical Inspector of the Caucasus, a chemical analysis has been made by Dr. Otten of the water in the rivers and wells of the Trans-Caspian region. In order to effect this analysis ten samples were taken from the Rivers Sumbar, Chandyr, Attrek, and the Karadji-Batyr and Chikishliar wells. The river water was found to be transparent, colourless, and without odour, of a saline taste, and with traces of alkali; the water from the wells of Karadji-Batyr was of a yellow colour, unpleasant to the taste, with a smell of sulphuric hydrogen gas, and showed a sediment of dark brown ferriferous clay; the water from the wells of Chikishliar was transparent, colourless, and without smell, of a bitter saline taste, and also showed traces of alkali. On comparing the analyzed water with water from the Caspian Sea, the influence of the latter on the subsoil waters was clearly observed. Although the influence of the sea water on the wells of Chikishliar is indisputable, yet it varies in degree. The water tested in the Trans-Caspian region was found to be entirely unfit for consumption and cooking purposes. The proportion of sulphuric acid, alkaline metals, and particularly of chlorides, exceeds the limits prescribed by science for wholesome water in sanitary respects. Owing also to the considerable hardness of the water, it is unsuitable for technical purposes, *i.e.*, supplying steam boilers and for washing purposes.

October $\frac{6}{18}$, 1881.

No. 46.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 31, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a correspondent of the "Baku Intelligence" gives the following account of a Turkoman deputation which recently arrived at Askabad from Merv:—

"After the fall of Geuk-Tépé many Akhal Téké Turkomans fled to Merv. They are now returning gradually to their old quarters, and it is expected that large numbers will return after the visit of the deputation. The well-known Tykma Sirdar, who met with such good treatment at the hands of the Russian Government, and was received into the Russian military service, made a journey to Merv and persuaded many of the Akhal Tékés to return to their homes. A number of these Turkomans returned with him, and they were accompanied by a deputation of independent Merv Tékés, whose object was to express the friendly feelings they entertained towards Russia; in other words, their object was purely diplomatic. The deputation, which consisted of fifty of the most notable Merv Chiefs, arrived at Askabad on the ^{3rd}_{15th} September, and remained only five or six days. The Merv guests received a most

[1732]

cordial reception, being liberally entertained, and on departing the more influential received presents of rich robes, while others received presents of money. From Askabad the deputation proceeded to Persia, from whence it is now returning to Merv. The Merv Turkomans were well received by the Persian authorities, but they remain better pleased with the reception and treatment which they received from the Russians. The stay of the deputation at Askabad was very short, owing to the impending departure of General Röhrberg to the Perso-Turkoman frontier, with the object of effecting an accurate delimitation of the same. Of course, it is impossible to be guided in this task by what existed formerly; if the Persian Government considered this or that line as their frontier, such a frontier was imaginary, inasmuch as no line of demarcation, excepting it were a river, or at least a Chinese wall, was recognized by their Téké neighbours, whose only frontier was where they were unable to penetrate on their swift horses. Now, however, the question must be settled differently, and a definite frontier-line must be established. General Röhrberg's journey partakes of the character of a preliminary survey, as Persia has not sent a Representative to the frontier."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 47.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 31, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of an extract from the "Novoe Vremya" of the $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁵/₇th instant, mentioning a report that the question of the Russo-Persian frontier in the Transcaspien region has been reopened, and expressing the hope that its speedy settlement will put an end to the robberies now committed by Persian bandits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Extract from the "Novoe Vremya" of October $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁵/₇, 1881.

(Translation.)

RUSO-PERSIAN FRONTIER IN THE TRANSCASPIAN REGION.—It is reported that the question of the Russo-Persian frontier in the Transcaspien region, which was suspended owing to the recent events in Afghanistan, has been reopened. It is hoped by a speedy settlement of this question to put an end for the future to the pillage engaged in on the frontier by bands of Persian robbers.

M. Zinovieff, the Russian Minister at Tehran, has represented to the Persian Government the necessity of instructing the frontier authorities to exert themselves in stopping these raids on Russian territory.

CENTRAL ASIA. No. 4 (1881).

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE respecting Affairs in
Central Asia.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. 1881.*

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