

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I had heard occasionally from Mr. Johnson all through the winter, so there is no doubt that communication can be kept up between Ladak and Thibet during the winter, though the great Himalayan ridge intervenes. This communication is no doubt irregular, inasmuch as the messengers have to wait for a break of fine weather; but, as I understand, there is but one pass that can be crossed during the winter, viz. the Zojji-La, between Dras and Kashmir, which, even in fine weather, involves travelling through upwards of 20 miles of snow, as we are aware from the very late time of the year that Mr. Johnson himself crossed on his return from Khotan, when he and his men all suffered severely from frost-bite and exposure. The danger of the crossing in winter is, no doubt, much reduced by the huts which the Maharajah has had built at intervals on both sides of the pass, otherwise even the Zojji-La pass would prove fatal much oftener than it does. A description of the general aspect of this pass is given by Le Père Desideri in the 'Lettres Edifiantes,' and he certainly does not make it out to have been better formerly than it is now. During summer it is, however, an easy pass to cross; the change from the luxuriant vegetation of a Kashmir side-valley to the desolation of Thibet is apt to strike those who see it for the first time.

Apparently the river Indus was frozen on the 8th of January, which indicates a very low temperature, as the stream near Lé is very rapid, and the body of water is large. During the whole month of January there were only seven clear days, almost all the other days there was snow either at Lé itself or in the mountains around. The actual fall of snow is not, however, I understand, very great, and I believe does not generally remain long on the ground.

Postscript.—Since writing about the meteorological observations taken by Mr. Johnson in Ladak during last winter I have heard from him again. He seems to have had a very severe winter for Thibet, and I enclose a memorandum embodying his further remarks, which, I think, may prove of interest, coming from such an elevated and little-known part of the world. If convenient, the enclosed might be published in continuation of the memorandum which I sent before.

" T. G. MONTGOMERIE.

" Mr. Johnson, writing on the 5th of March, says that his messengers inform him that at Rudok and Gartok there was a fight going on between the authorities of the country and the people that live a wandering life (the Khambas); the latter have of late been plundering the peaceful dwellers in fixed camps, and there is altogether a great deal of turmoil in this westerly part of Thibet. Troops are, however, said to be coming from Lhasa.

" Mr. Johnson goes on to say that they have had snow nearly every day up to 5th March, but that he had managed to go down to Khulsee by marching over the frozen bed of the Indus River, which he found a solid mass of ice from Pituk Monastery below Lé to Dah. Above Pituk the river was only partly frozen over, owing to the great number of hot springs which flow into it above Uphi. These hot springs are very numerous in the upper part of the Indus, some rising in the stream itself, their position being apparent from the steam which rises from their neighbourhood.

" Mr. Johnson went to Khulsee to see to the repairs of the well-known bridge which spans the Indus there, where it is very narrow. This bridge is the only permanent one over the Indus below Lé. The snow in Khulsee had fallen to the depth of 12 inches, but in Lé it never exceeded 4 inches at a time.

" Writing on the 16th February, he said they had had another fall of snow, the Dras (Zojji-La) Pass was closed, and some more men had been lost by avalanches falling on them. The closing of the pass must have lasted for a long time, as Mr. Johnson's letters of the 16th February and 5th March reached me by the same post."

THERMOMETRIC OBSERVATIONS TAKEN BY W. H. JOHNSON, ESQ., AT
LÉ DURING JANUARY, 1873.

Day of Month.	Hour of Observation.	Thermometer in open Air on House.	Thermometer in open Courtyard.	Thermometer in Room without Fire.	Second Thermometer.	REMARKS.
1872						
Dec. 31	6	31	32	37	36	Snowing.
"	8	31	32	37	36	Ditto.
"	9	34	32	37	36	Ditto.
1873						
Jan. 1	12	34	36	36	36	Very cloudy.
"	3	30	35	32	34	Ditto.
"	4	30	33	32	33	Ditto.
"	6	29	33	33	31	Ditto.
"	9	25	31	32	27	Cloudy.
"	12	21	29	31	24	Ditto.
"	3	19	26	28	27	Ditto.
"	6	23	28	29	32	Ditto.
"	9	32	34	33	39	Ditto.
Jan. 2	12	37	38	34	40	Snowing on hills.
"	3	37	38	34	40	Ditto.
"	6	33	37	33	39	Ditto.
"	9	33	35	34	37	Ditto.
"	12	33	33	33	36	Ditto.
"	3	27	33	33	36	Snowing.
"	6	28	32	32	35	Ditto.
"	9	31	33	32	36	Ditto.
Jan. 3	12	37	39	34	38	Ditto.
"	3	36	38	35	37	Clear.
"	6	34	35	33	36	Ditto.
"	9	25	30	31	32	Ditto.
"	12	22	28	30	29	Ditto.
"	3	20	26	28	29	Ditto.
"	6	23	28	27	29	Ditto.
"	9	28	32	27	33	Cloudy.
Jan. 4	12	37	39	29	40	Snowing on hills.
"	3	36	38	29	40	Ditto.
"	6	35	37	30	38	Snowing.
"	9	35	36	30	37	Ditto.
"	12	26	32	30	34	Ditto.
"	3	25	30	30	32	Ditto.
"	6	20	25	27	27	Ditto.
"	9	25	30	27	31	Ditto.
Jan. 5	12	25	30	28	31	Ditto.
"	3	25	30	28	31	Snowing on hills.
"	6	26	31	28	33	Ditto.
"	9	26	32	29	33	Ditto.
"	12	25	30	29	32	Ditto.
"	3	23	29	27	30	Ditto.
"	6	19	25	26	27	Snowing.
"	9	18	24	24	26	Ditto.
Jan. 6	12	24	29	29	31	Very cloudy.
"	3	23	29	29	30	Snowing on hills.
"	6	21	29	28	30	Ditto.
"	9	20	26	27	27	Snowing.
"	12	18	24	23	26	Ditto.

THERMOMETRIC OBSERVATIONS—*continued.*

Day of Month.	Hour of Observation.	Thermometer in open Air in House.	Thermometer in open Court-yard.	Thermometer in Room without Fire.	Second Thermometer.	REMARKS.
1873						
Jan. 6	3	16	22	22	23	Snowing.
"	6	16	23	23	25	Ditto.
"	9	25	30	26	28	Snowing on hills.
Jan. 7	12	25	30	26	28	Ditto.
"	3	16	21	22	24	Ditto.
"	6	16	20	21	22	Ditto.
"	9	15	20	21	22	Snowing.
"	12	14	18	17	21	Ditto.
"	3	11	16	17	19	Ditto.
"	6	10	16	16	18	Snowing on hills
"	9	10	16	17	18	Ditto.
Jan. 8	12	12	17	19	18	Clear.
"	3	11	16	17	17	Ditto.
"	6	10	17	17	17	Ditto.
"	9	7	14	15	16	Snowing, Indus frozen.
"	12	6	13	14	16	Ditto.
"	3	5	12	14	14	Ditto.
"	6	5	11	14	13	Ditto.
"	9	9	13	14	13	Ditto.
Jan. 9	12	12	16	15	16	Snowing on hills.
"	3	11	16	17	17	Clear.
"	6	12	17	17	17	Snowing on hills.
"	9	11	20	18	21	Snowing.
"	12	11	21	20	21	Ditto.
"	3	9	17	20	18	Ditto.
"	6	10	17	18	18	Ditto.
"	9	11	18	18	19	Ditto.
Jan. 10	12	11	18	17	19	Snowing on hills.
"	3	10	17	17	18	Ditto.
"	6	9	15	15	16	Ditto.
"	9	9	15	16	16	Ditto.
"	12	6	16	17	17	Clear.
"	3	5	15	16	17	Ditto.
"	6	5	14	15	16	Ditto.
"	9	6	15	15	16	Ditto.
Jan. 11	12	9	16	15	16	Ditto.
"	3	6	14	15	15	Ditto.
"	6	6	14	14	15	Ditto.
"	9	5	13	14	13	Ditto.
"	12	5	9	10	10	Snowing.
"	3	4	9	10	10	Ditto.
"	6	4	9	11	11	Ditto.
"	9	5	10	11	11	Ditto.
Jan. 12	12	7	11	11	10	Ditto.
"	3	7	11	11	12	Ditto.
"	6	6	10	11	12	Snowing on hills.
"	9	6	10	11	11	Ditto.
"	12	6	10	11	10	Ditto.
"	3	5	9	11	11	Ditto.
"	6	4	9	11	10	Ditto.
"	9	2	6	9	8	Ditto.
Jan. 13	12	3	0	5	6	Clear.
"	3	5	2	2	0	Ditto. Wind.

THERMOMETRIC OBSERVATIONS—*continued.*

Day of Month.	Hour of Observation.	Thermometer in open Air on House.	Thermometer in open Court-yard.	Thermometer in Room without Fire.	Second Thermometer.	REMARKS.
1873						
Jan. 13	6	-2	1	3	2	Cloudy. Wind.
"	9	-2	1	3	1	Ditto. Ditto.
"	12	-3	1	3	0	Very cloudy.
"	3	3	4	5	5	Snowing.
"	6	3	6	5	5	Ditto.
"	9	5	6	5	7	Ditto.
Jan. 14	12	6	6	5	9	Ditto.
"	3	6	7	5	10	Snowing on hills.
"	6	5	9	7	10	Ditto.
"	9	5	8	7	10	Ditto.
"	12	4	7	7	10	Ditto.
"	3	-3	0	4	7	Ditto. Windy.
"	6	-4	-1	3	1	Ditto. Ditto.
"	9	-5	-1	3	-1	Ditto. Ditto.
Jan. 15	12	-6	-1	3	-2	Ditto. Ditto.
"	3	-9	-3	1	-3	Clear and windy.
"	6	-8	-2	3	-3	Ditto.
"	9	-8	-2	3	-4	Ditto.
"	12	-8	-3	0	-3	Ditto.
"	3	-10	-2	3	-7	Ditto.
"	6	-10	-4	1	-8	Ditto.
"	9	-8	-2	1	-6	Ditto.
Jan. 16	12	-6	-1	2	-2	Ditto.
"	3	1	3	6	4	Cloudy.
"	6	3	6	7	6	Snowing on hills.
"	9	5	8	9	7	Ditto.
"	12	6	9	9	8	Ditto.
"	3	6	9	9	10	Ditto.
"	6	7	9	10	10	Ditto.
"	9	7	9	10	10	Ditto.
Jan. 17	12	8	9	10	10	Ditto.
"	3	7	8	10	11	Ditto.
"	6	7	10	11	11	Ditto.
"	9	7	10	10	12	Ditto.
"	12	7	11	11	11	Ditto.
"	3	6	9	10	11	Snowing.
"	6	7	10	11	12	Ditto.
"	9	10	13	14	13	Ditto.
Jan. 18	12	11	15	15	14	Snowing on hills.
"	3	10	12	12	14	Ditto.
"	6	9	11	12	13	Ditto.
"	9	9	11	12	14	Ditto.
"	12	8	10	11	13	Snowing.
"	3	5	8	10	10	Ditto.
"	6	6	9	10	11	Ditto.
"	9	8	10	12	13	Ditto.
Jan. 19	12	9	11	12	13	Ditto.
"	3	9	11	13	13	Snowing on hills.
"	6	6	8	12	11	Ditto.
"	9	5	8	11	10	Ditto.
"	12	4	7	9	9	Ditto.
"	3	2	5	7	7	Ditto.
"	6	3	5	7	7	Ditto.

THERMOMETRIC OBSERVATIONS—*continued.*

Day of Month.	Hour of Observation.	Thermometer in open Air on house.	Thermometer in open Court-yard.	Thermometer in Room with-out Fire.	Second Thermometer.	REMARKS.
1873						
Jan. 19	9	5	8	7	8	Snowing on hills.
Jan. 20	12	6	8	7	9	Clear.
"	3	6	8	9	9	Ditto.
"	6	5	7	8	9	Ditto.
"	9	3	6	7	8	Ditto.
"	12	1	3	4	4	Ditto.
"	3	-5	-2	1	1	Ditto.
"	6	-4	-1	1	1	Ditto.
"	9	2	4	2	6	Cloudy.
Jan. 21	12	3	7	5	6	Ditto.
"	3	4	6	7	6	Snowing on hills.
"	6	5	8	7	7	Ditto.
"	9	3	6	7	5	Ditto.
"	12	2	5	6	5	Ditto.
"	3	1	4	5	4	Snowing.
"	6	4	7	6	7	Ditto.
"	9	6	9	7	9	Ditto.
Jan. 22	12	7	8	7	9	Ditto.
"	3	8	10	8	9	Snowing on hills.
"	6	7	10	8	8	Ditto.
"	9	4	7	8	8	Ditto.
"	12	3	6	7	7	Ditto.
"	3	2	4	6	6	Ditto.
"	6	2	4	6	5	Very cloudy.
"	9	4	7	6	6	Ditto.
Jan. 23	12	7	10	12	11	Clear.
"	3	7	11	12	11	Ditto.
"	6	7	11	12	11	Ditto.
"	9	7	11	12	11	Ditto.
"	12	6	11	12	11	Ditto.
"	3	6	11	11	11	Ditto.
"	6	7	12	12	12	Ditto.
"	9	9	13	12	12	Ditto.
Jan. 24	12	9	13	14	14	Cloudy.
"	3	9	13	14	14	Ditto.
"	6	9	14	14	13	Ditto.
"	9	7	12	13	13	Clear.
"	12	7	12	13	13	Ditto.
"	3	6	10	12	11	Ditto.
"	6	8	11	13	11	Ditto.
"	9	11	13	13	12	Cloudy.
Jan. 25	12	12	13	13	12	Very cloudy.
"	3	12	14	14	15	Ditto.
"	6	11	14	14	15	Snowing on hills.
"	9	11	13	14	13	Ditto.
"	12	10	12	13	13	Ditto.
"	3	9	12	14	13	Snowing.
"	6	10	12	14	13	Ditto.
"	9	11	13	14	14	Ditto.
Jan. 26	12	14	17	16	18	Ditto.
"	3	12	17	16	17	Snowing on hills.
"	6	11	17	17	17	Ditto.
"	9	11	17	18	18	Ditto.

THERMOMETRIC OBSERVATIONS—continued.

Day of Month.	Hour of Observation.	Thermometer in open Air on House.	Thermometer in open Court-yard.	Thermometer in Room without Fire.	Second Thermometer.	REMARKS.
1873						
Jan. 26	12	11	15	18	19	Snowing on hills.
"	3	10	15	17	17	Cloudy.
"	6	12	15	17	18	Ditto.
"	9	13	16	17	18	Ditto.
Jan. 27	12	14	17	17	18	Ditto.
"	3	14	17	17	18	Ditto.
"	6	13	18	18	19	Snowing.
"	9	12	17	18	18	Ditto.
"	12	12	16	17	17	Ditto.
"	3	11	15	17	17	Ditto.
"	6	11	14	16	16	Ditto.
"	9	11	14	16	14	Snowing on hills.
Jan. 28	12	15	16	16	17	Ditto.
"	3	15	17	18	17	Ditto.
"	6	15	18	18	17	Very cloudy.
"	9	14	18	19	18	Ditto.
"	12	13	17	19	18	Ditto.
"	3	11	15	17	17	Snowing on hills.
"	6	11	15	17	17	Ditto.
"	9	12	16	18	17	Ditto.
Jan. 29	12	16	19	20	19	Cloudy.
"	3	14	17	19	19	Ditto.
"	6	12	16	18	17	Clear.
"	9	10	14	18	16	Ditto.
"	12	9	14	18	15	Ditto.
"	3	8	13	18	14	Ditto.
"	6	9	13	18	14	Ditto.
"	9	12	16	18	16	Ditto.
Jan. 30	12	15	18	20	17	Cloudy.
"	3	15	19	19	18	Very cloudy.
"	6	14	18	19	18	Snowing on hills.
"	9	13	17	18	17	Ditto.
"	12	13	15	17	17	Ditto.
"	3	11	14	16	17	Ditto.
"	6	14	18	16	18	Ditto.
"	9	15	18	16	19	Ditto.
Jan. 31	12	16	19	19	20	Ditto.
"	3	16	19	19	20	Ditto.
"	6	16	20	21	20	Ditto.
"	9	15	19	21	19	Ditto.
"	12	15	19	21	19	Snowing.
"	3	13	17	20	18	Ditto.
"	6	16	19	20	19	Ditto.
"	9	17	20	21	20	Ditto.
Feb. 1	12	18	20	21	21	Snowing on hills.

Thermometer in room with a good fire day and night, ranges from 42° to 36° generally at night, and 52° to 40° in the day; with doors and windows shut and curtained with double felt, also walls covered with felt. The room has two open windows.

W. H. JOHNSON.