

DS
485
H8
N3

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

OF

SIR MOHOMED NAZIM KHAN, K. C. I. E.

MIR OF HUNZA

SURPLUS - 3
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
DUPLICATE



P r e f a c e.

This book was translated into Urdu by Muhd;
Jamal Khan and into persian by Qudratullah
Beg and was roughly translated into English
by Khan Bahadur Muhammad Maseh Pal Indian
Assistant Gilgit and completed by me.

B.K.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY
of
SIR. MOHOMED NAZIM KHAN, K.C.I.E.
MIR of HUNZA.

I N D E X.

Chapter.	Page.
I. Early years - casting the Hunza gun affairs in Badakshan	1
II. Relations with Chitral ..	8
III. Colonel Lochart's visit - death of my father - Captain Younghusband's visit Colonel Durand and first Durbar - visit to Kashgar.	9
IV. War with Kashmir - another visit to Kashgar - war with the British and flight to the Pamirs - my installation as Mir.	31
V. War in Chitral.	64
VI. Lord Curzon's visit - Durbars in India Lord Kitchener's visit	70
VII. Visits to Srinagar and the 1911 Durbar in Delhi.	90
VIII. Raising of the Scouts - Capture of Germany during War.	98
IX. Last visit to Srinagar in 1931 ..	108
X. What I have done as Mir ..	120
XI. Some legends and some facts about my country.	132

List of Illustrations.

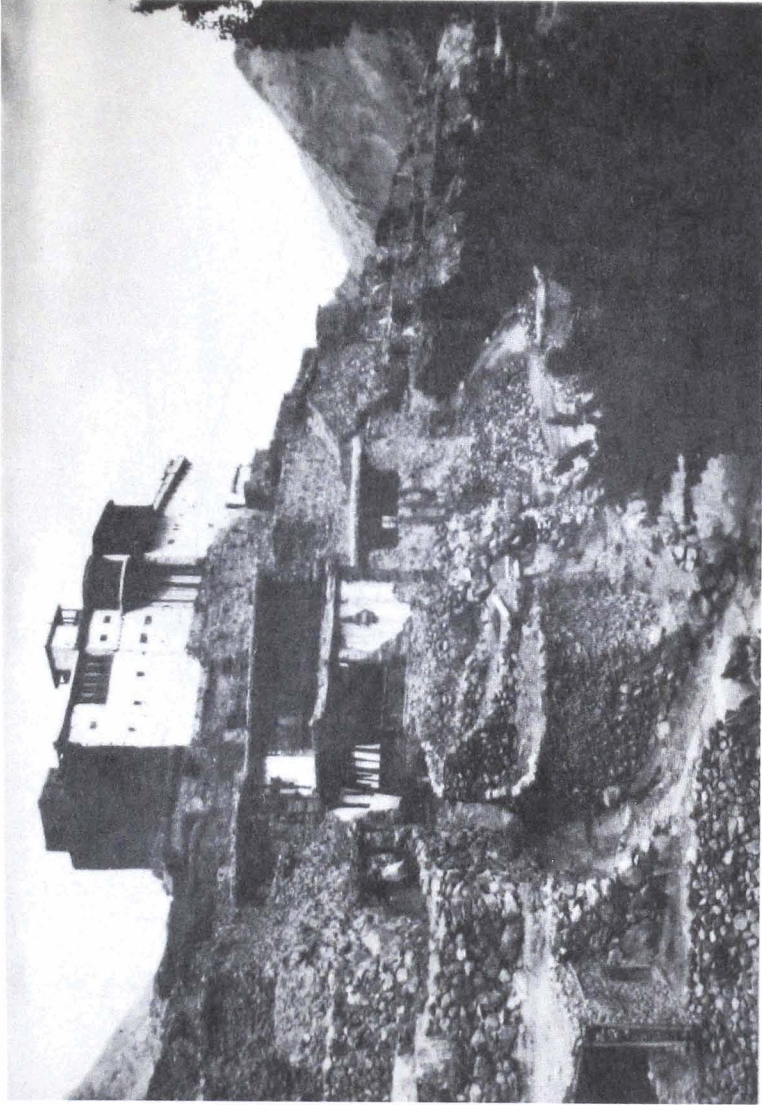
Baltit Fort	Frontispiece.	
The Mir of Hunza arriving at Polo.	facing page	8
Baltit Fort from the Mir's garden		14
Bandsmen dancing in the Mir's Fort at Baltit.		21
Altit Fort.		30
The Batora glacier.		409
Collies being helped across a spate.		51
Fording the Hunza River.		58
Looking back into India from the summit of the Killik Pass.		67
A good Ovis Poli head; Jamal Khan, the Mir's grandson second from the right.		76
The pinnacled Karakorams; view from Passu.		84
The summit of Rakaposhi 25,500 ft. showing more than 15,000 feet of sheer mountain face.		94 1/2
A High Camp.		102
Mastuj Fort.		110
The 'Darband' on the Hunza River.		119
The head of a glacier.		128
The Darkot Darband near where the explorer Hayward was killed.		138

In the name of God, the Kind the Merciful.

The writer of the morn and the eve
Writes praises of the God of universe, first,
Then praises Mir Vazim, the Ruler
Who has beautified the world by good management.
I sing of his qualities every where,
God has given the reins of the world into his hands.
Give ears to the praises of this Darius like king,
Who is famous and successful from China to London.
The very high dignity he has attained to
Never fell to the lot of his ancestors.
He holds in his possession every thing.
The heavens are his servants and luck and riches his slaves.
Look at his good natured son,
Ghazan Khan, who is both courteous and dignified,
In appearance he is like Josuf, in character an angel,
His bright face is like the full, brilliant moon.
God has been very liberal to him,
In bestowing upon him the flowers of knowledge
and the perfume of talents.



Mir Sir Mohd Nazim Khan.
K. C. I. E. Huzar



قلعہ بلتیت

Baltit Fort

I had never much cared for associating with children of my own age and as soon as I was seven was allowed to attend meetings presided over by my father which led him to regard me with special affection and brought me, at an early age, into contact with people who were wise and learned. Fond of riding and shooting I went out daily on my donkey with a bow and arrow and just before my eighth birthday was presented by my father with a matchlock. In those days pebbles were used instead of bullets and in a very short time I became an expert shot.

When I was nine my father let me select a pony from some he had captured in a raid on Ladakh and I chose one that I named "Bacha-i-Badargal" after Badargal the horse my father rode. But alas, though it was as big as a Kashmiri pony, it was so lazy that it would not trot, so I sought counsel from Ghulam Naqshband who recommended a good beating each morning, a prescription that soon remedied matters.

This old man was a native of Badakshan. Free to come and go as he pleased, he had resided in Hunza for many years under the patronage of the ruling family for whom he had a great affection; occasionally he would go on a visit to his own country but always he returned. An expert in Persian he devoted much time to teaching me that language and by the time I was ten I could speak

it fluently.

At that time (1878) Colonel Biddulf visited Gilgit. My father sent Fazil and Beko as emissaries to him and they returned with a letter from the Colonel who wrote that he was very eager to visit Hunza in spite of the gloomy prognostications of the Gilgitis who predicted disaster should such a visit be made. On receipt of this letter my father sent Fazal again to Gilgit with an invitation for Colonel Biddulf, but he, after consultation with the Local State Officers, replied that for fear of treachery he could not go unless one of the Mir's sons was sent with the invitation. My father, therefore, summoned me and asked me if I were willing to go to Gilgit with a letter for Colonel Biddulf, a proposition to which I at once agreed.

As it was summer I had to go by Budolas where the river was spanned below the fort by a rope bridge over which I was carried by Abdul of Aliabad. I was met on the far bank by a Havildar and ten sepoy of the Kashmir State Forces sent from the small garrison at Chalt, which, without the knowledge of Sultano, Wazir of Chaprot had been secretly occupied two years before. Halting there for the night I was given "rasad" from the State and proceeded to Nomal on the following day where the Lambardar, Sayid Murtoza Shah, and the local zemindar came out to welcome me. As the moon was full I left

Nomal that evening and spent the night at Chalbesh. Off again at daybreak, I reached the Gilgit rope bridge at about breakfast time and was received on the far bank by a Subedar and twenty sepoy who conducted me to Lala Ram Kishen, at that time Wazir-i-Wazarat in Gilgit.

Next morning I was taken from my camp at Kasimbwgi Hat to see Colonel Biddulf in the Agency Garden which was then being laid out. Turf was being brought from Jutial and trees were being planted, while the Sappers and Miners were building the house, the veranda of which is still standing. Colonel Biddulf was very pleasant to me and while I was there a gramophone was played which was afterwards presented to Rajah Alidad of Gilgit whose family may have it still.

Lala Ram Kishen invited me to his house the following morning and there I met General Hoshyara, Sardar Samad Khan and Wazir Ghulam Haider. The General had grown very old so had Sardar Samad Khan whom they used to call "Sandes."

Shazada Hassan, son of the Mir of Badakshan, was in Gilgit then having fled there via Yasin owing to the tyranny of Mir Alam. With him were Wazir Moh'd Karim, Ishaq Abtali and Moh'd Munir son of Moh'd Zamir. Their camp was in the Bakshi Bagh and they all had Khatli ponies with them, one of which - a grey - they presented to Colonel Biddulf who afterwards gave it to

me. With Colonel Biddulf's permission I visited the Shazada daily and was entertained by him. As our families were connected he was very polite to me and seemed quite happy in Gilgit as he had with him nine ponies, a number of Khargahs and a fairly large fortune.

After a month spent thus in Gilgit I took leave of Colonel Biddulf who presented me with a sword, a silver mug and the grey Khatli pony; Vakils Fazal and Zurparast and the twenty men that were with me were given presents according to their rank and, for my father, a looking glass and a Persian Dictionary - Ghayasulloghat - the first book of it's kind in Hunza, were entrusted to my care. From Kashmir State I received a cash present of five hundred Chilkies (about Rs.250/-), some Khimbab pieces and shawls, the whole value amounting to Rs.1000/- , and my followers were also given presents. I then returned safely home - the first son of a Mir of Hunza ever to enter Gilgit.

I told my father that, on saying Goodbye, Colonel Biddulf had expressed a wish to visit him and see Hunza to which I had replied that the chief object of my visit to Gilgit was to invite him. I also explained that uzar Khan of Nagir and all the Gilgitis had warned him against it, telling him that misfortune would overtake him if he went and how, when Colonel Biddulf had asked me if I would be willing to take the responsibility and be a hostage for him, I had immediately said "yes."

Two years later, when the Sappers and Miners had widened the road at Barumchar, Colonel Biddulf paid Hunza a visit. He travelled by Budolas over the mountains to Mayun, thence to Hinni where Safdar Ali, my eldest brother had gone to receive him, and from there to Hassanabad where I and my father met him. After visiting Baltit and presenting my father with a pistol he had brought with him, Colonel Biddulf returned to Gilgit. On his arrival in Hunza a salute of eight guns was fired from the cannon that is at present in the garden of the Agency House Gilgit.

The manufacture of this gun caused a great deal of trouble. Adina, a native of Badakshan, was gun maker to the Afghan Government in the time of Amir Sher Ali of Kabul, and ~~Khan~~ ^{Saker,} Ali of Ghulkin, Mir Alimardan and Fattedh Ali Shah were sent to Badakshan to try and persuade him to come into Hunza. They succeeded in bringing him and his family, who were lodged in the Shumal Bagh, where S.M. Ghazan Khan now has his house. Immediately on arrival he set to work and made a clay cast and while he was making it the Mir collected one copper pot from each holding and contributed two thirds of his own copper utensils all of which were melted down and poured into the mould. But, alas, the cast was too big for the amount of metal provided and it was also found that the Hunza clay was of a different quality from that of Badakshan and the gun was

not cast clean. Ali Gauhar, with two ironsmiths, was accordingly sent to Badakshan whence he returned with a pony load of Badakshani clay and another gun maker, Dagrez by name, who was an expert in making casts and working molten metal. The original gun was melted down, more copper, from kettles, cups, etc., collected from Ghujal to Layun, was added and the whole poured into the cast of Badakshani clay, forty men working daily on the process. After two days the mould was broken and the gun was found to be one and a half 'balisht' (Hand span) short. The gun maker was, however, undismayed and patched the length found short, which patch can still be seen. For a week the gun was bored and polished inside while Adina and Dagrez cast a small kohistani gun. Both guns were put in charge of Moh'd Tura Beg and the secret of their manufacture kept from Nagir.

At Dungdass the Kohistani gun was fired for the first time and incontinently exploded. Fortunately no one was hurt although the pieces flew high and far and a number of men and horses were present.

Adina and Dagrez and their families were given rewards to the value of a thousand rupees and allowed to return home.

At that time - soon after the British had evacuated Kabul - Amir Abdur Rahman, who was leading a very precarious existence at Kokand in Russian territory, came



درویش صاحب میرکھنہ سر ملتان شاہ جومال بڈا

The Mir of Hunza arriving at Polo.

over to Badakshan and asked Baba ^{Khan} Jan, Governor of that country and Commander in Chief of Sher Ali Shah's army, to help him against Sultan Murad Khan, ruler of Kadghan. ✓
 Some of his councillors advised Baba ^{Khan} Jan to kill him outright, telling him that did he not do so Abdur Rahman would lay claim to the throne at Kabul and afterwards annex Badakshan, but, partly owing to their relationship and partly out of friendship, Baba ^{Khan} Jan agreed to help him and accompanied by Abdur Rahman, marched his army on Kadghan which, with the help of forces from Kabul that joined in with him, succeeded in overthrowing Sultan Murad Khan.

Abdur Rahman, however, nourished a secret grudge against Baba ^{Khan} Jan because the latter had nick-named him "sheep" and had shown him scant courtesy at the Badakshan Durbars; so one night he took him prisoner while he was drunk and appointed Mir Alam in his place. Implacable, brutal, unjust the latter soon wrought havoc in the state and forced many men to flee. Soon after his accession he wrote to my father asking him to return his brother Mir Hassan, whom I had met in Gilgit, but by then he had gone to Kashmir to be treated for epilepsy from which disease he died and his embalmed body was afterwards sent back to Badakshan via Hunza.

Very friendly relations then existed between that country and Hunza and all these happenings were related to my father in front of me by Ali Gauhar - a Hunza

man - who was a permanent Wakil at the Court of Baba Jan. ^{Khan}

CHAPTER II.

In the year 1880 Pehlwan, Ruler of Yasin, made overtures to my father asking him if he would provide a wife for his son Shah Abdur Rahman Khan, the present Governor of Yasin. While messages were still passing through Humayan Beg of Hunza and Mehrban of Yasin and before the betrothal had taken place, Pehlwan decided to march against Gilgit and asked my father's help in the enterprise. A detachment commanded by Humayan Beg was accordingly sent to his assistance but, although he was successful at Gakuch and Singal, Moh'd Akbar Khan was able to hold Sherkilla against him and his army was eventually defeated at Gilgit. Shortly afterwards he heard that Amanul Mulk, the Mehtar of Chitral, had occupied Yasin in

his absence and he was forced to take refuge in Darel, while Humayan Beg had to retire to Hunza over the Chilingi Pass.

From Darel he made one unsuccessful attempt to get back Yasin and was eventually murdered there by Mir Kamam, his family, comprising Shah Abdur Rahman Khan, Muzhghisti (Moh'd Rahim Khan), and ^{Chick}~~Stok~~ Mehtar (Sultan Mohyiddin Khan), being sent back to Yasin where they were given the holding known as 'Roshnot.'

As soon as Mehtar Amanul Mulk had subjugated Yasin and Mastuj he divided the Province between his two elder sons Nizamul Mulk and Afzalul Mulk; the former was given from Shandur up to the farther border of Yasin, the latter Mastuj and Yarkhun up to and including Baranas.

After Pehlwan's death my father abandoned the idea of making a marriage in his family and sent Vakils to Chitral to see if an alliance with the family of Amanul Mulk could be arranged. It was eventually decided that my brother Salim Khan should marry a sister of Shujaul Mulk and with this object in view I was sent to Chitral, at the age of thirteen, with Wazir Humayan Beg.

We travelled across the Chilingi Pass to Imit in Ishkoman, thence to Darkot and over the Thui to Ghazan where Afzalul Mulk, the Governor of Mastuj, had sent to meet us Waziri Wakhan Quazi Sarwar, a refugee

who married Hakim Abdulla Khan's daughter. From there we proceeded to Mastuj where the Governor entertained us for three or four days after which we set out for Chitral. At each stage of the way officials vied with each other in the entertainments they gave our party and at Dinan, Wazirul Mulk greeted us and conducted us with much ceremony until we met the Mehtar who had ridden out two miles on a pretext of seeing a garden he had there.

Amanul Mulk had five sons by his Royal wife and innumerable offspring from his many concubines. His sons were named Afzalul Mulk, Nizamul Mulk, Shujaul Mulk (then a mere child), Wazirul Mulk and Behramul Mulk. Nizamul Mulk had come from Yasin to see his father and took part in the polo that was played on our arrival. During the game his pony came down but he was not hurt and continued playing. He was a very jovial person and fond of drink and always regaled me with amusing stories when I visited him in his garden near the Bazar. During my stay in Chitral the Mehtar was very courteous to me, gave me a seat on his throne and had Kauser Bag prepared for my reception.

As presents from my father I gave him three .x. big Yamboos (a silver Chinese coin of a value of Rs.120/- to Rs.150/-), three half Yamboos, two rolls of Tawar (Chinese silk brocade), two 'roosi' matchlocks, two china cups and three or four rugs. While I was there I heard a great number of authentic stories. Abdulla Jan, a Vakil from Afghanistan, told me that Adam Khor was on the side,

of Sulaiman Shah whose wife was ^{daughter.} ~~sister~~ to Shah Ghazanfar Khan of Hunza, his wife being Sulaiman Shah's sister. Sulaiman Shah had two sons, Azmat Shah and Mehtar, the latter of whom was murdered in the presence of Mir Kaman after Mastuj was conquered.

Amanul Mulk and Adam Khor were half brothers and when Adam Khor was Crown Prince, after he had conquered Mastuj he boasted that he was not like Katooras. Abdulla Jan said that then and there he would have liked to kill him but thinking it over he contented himself with saying "You are a ^{Cock} ~~bird~~ of the Autumn time. The ^{Cock.} ~~bird~~ who is full of grain has a right to sing a song."

(Note. I do not quite see what all this is about nor is there any clue as to whom the people concerned are).

After two months the marriage service of my brother and the sister of Shujaul Mulk was read and I took my departure, much pleased with the reception that had been accorded to me. Among other presents Amanul Mulk gave me a falcon and a falconer and sent Hazar Beg, son of Diwan Beg, as Chitral Wakil in Hunza.

On the way back I met Colonel Lockhart at Mastuj, accompanied by Colonel Robertson and some Pathan Guards, and he gave me a letter to my father asking me to tell him that he hoped to be able to visit Hunza after he returned from Chitral. From there I went by Ziabeg and Topkhana to Yarkhun but as it was summer and all the streams were in spate I had often to ford them on horseback and on some

occasions even to swim. Thence via the hot-spring at Baroghil to Shuwarsho where a large lake feeds the Gilgit and Chitral Rivers and where the Darkhot glacier has its head; from Shuwarsho to Shwing, over the Khoraburth Pass to Lup Jup and the Irshad Pass to Irshad where is the tomb of Baba Gundi.

Four days later my father met us at Altit with Sayid Tahir, Agent of Abdur Rahim, who had with him two taighoons (high grade falcons).

CHAPTER III.

In 1885 - 86 Colonel Lockhart wished to travel through Hunza to Wakhijrao and arrived in Gilgit with this object in view. He and the Wazir-i-Wazarat sent Ghulam Haider with some motibars to my father asking him to send one of his sons into Gilgit to ensure the safety of Colonel Lockhart's party. My father wanted Safdar Ali to go but he refused as did Moh'd Nafio Khan so I was finally selected and agreed to go on condition that one Motibar from each clan should accompany me. It was soon after the

death of Wazir Isadulla Beg and before a new Wazir had been appointed. After some opposition by Moh'd Tara Beg I got my way and set out with Ghulam Haider for Gilgit, Wazirzada Moh'd Raza Beg Moh'd Zamir, Zarpurast and fifteen other Motibars accompanying me.

Colonel Lockhart was awaiting our arrival at Nomal and he presented me with a Choga, a mare and Rs.500/- and placed at my disposal the rooms Colonel Biddulf had occupied - I then went on to Gilgit where I remained until Colonel Lockhart had reached the Wakhan border and had sent a letter to the Gilgit authorities saying that I and my party might return. Bahadur Khan, Raja of Astow and Bakshi Moolraj - a great friend of my father's - also stayed with me in Gilgit. The Maharaja of Kashmir gave me Rs.500/-

Colonel Lockhart reached Hunza via ^{Majoon} ~~Manna~~ and asked my father if there was anything he could do for him. My father replied that he was very desirous of having Chaprot restored to Hunza. He pointed out that it had originally belonged to the country but that of late years the State troops had aided Nagir to wrest it from him and, at the moment it was under the Mir of Nagir's sway. Colonel Lockhart promised to do what he could about it and in return my father told him that he would willingly build and maintain a road through the country and would

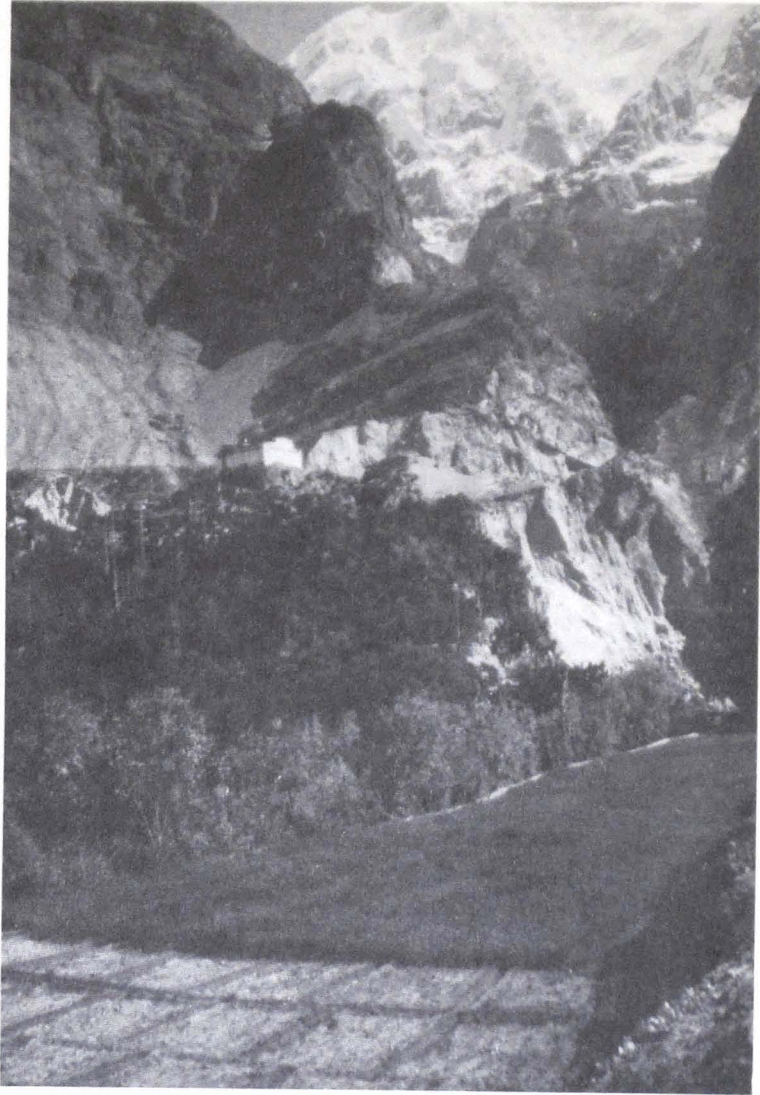
also give him all the help he required to get to the Wakhan border.

While I was in Gilgit Wazir Ghulam Haider told me that someone in Hunza had asked him for a supply of poison - a request he had refused - and on my return to Baltit I mentioned this to my father and told him that I thought that Safdar Ali was responsible. He, however, scoffed at the notion that death could come to him from one of his own sons and accused me of jealousy.

At this time the tension between the two parties was becoming more and more acute and there is little doubt that Safdar Ali helped by Tara Beg was plotting my Father's death.

To make matters clear it is necessary to go back a little into the relationship between the two protagonists. When Wazir Asadulla Beg died he left behind him two sons; the elder Tara Beg, was a friend of Safdar Ali, the younger Humayun Beg of Salam Khan. In normal circumstances the Wazirship would have fallen to the elder, but he was a great intriguer and because of this my father was inclined to favour the younger brother who had the further claim that the Mir had married one of his aunts by whom he had had two children, Sakhawat Shah and Amir Jahandar Shah. Both my brothers suspected that whoever succeeded as Wazir would have a very great say in who was to be my father's successor and each was backing his own man as hard as he could.

تلغہ بلیٹ از باغ میر صاحب۔



Baltit Fort from the Mir's garden.

During the following summer Khuda Dad, milk-father of Shujaul Mulk, came from Chitral to ask Salam Khan to return with him and bring his wife back to Hunza. To this proposal Safdar Ali demurred as it was suggested to him that if Salam Khan could obtain men and money from Chitral, he would then be in a position to claim the Miri for himself, and, to his warped mind, the fact that my father favoured Humayan Beg as Wazir indicated that he would welcome Salam Khan as his successor. Actually my father had intended making Salam Khan Mir of Sarikul as the late Mir, his uncle, had recently died.

His objections were, however, over-ruled and Salam Khan with Humayan Beg, Ichuda Daro and a marriage procession of a hundred men left for Chitral.

I was ill at the time and confined in the Mahal where my father often visited me. One warm day, after sitting with me for some time, he went out for a stroll in the Shumal Bag where Tara Beg and some of his men were lying concealed. As soon as he appeared they shot him down. Hearing the noise of the firing I thought at first that a son had been born to some influential man in the village, but the sound of rushing of feet and the shouting soon convinced me of what had really taken place and seizing a gun I rushed out of my sickroom, calling to the door-keeper to close the door. But my weakness was so great that I fell unconscious on the threshold where I was found by Safdar Ali and imprisoned for two months.

People rapidly collected and removed the corpse, which was still lying in the Shumal Bagh, and gave it a public burial, after which they intended to put Safdar Ali to death; but he declared a remission of twelve taxes, that had hitherto been a sore burden on the people, and by this means escaped the fate in store for him and secured the country for himself.

His next problem was to render harmless Salam Khan who, with Humayun Beg, a hundred men and potential assistance from the Mehtar of Chitral, was a serious menace to his new found security. The marriage procession had, by now arrived at Recht whither he sent two Sowars with a message to Salam Khan telling him that Hunza was being attacked by the State Forces and urging him to return with his men as fast as possible. As he hastened back he was surrounded by a party of three hundred men, bound and brought before Safdar Ali at Gulmit. The original plan had been that Safdar Ali should murder all his brothers whilst Tara Beg killed his. But, the latter, weakened when it came to the point and refused to commit this horrible crime sending Humayun Beg to Chitral, whereupon my brother sent Sakhawat Shah to Ganich Jahandar Shah to Ghulkin, and banished Salam Khan to Shimshal.

I was detained for two months and was then summoned before Safdar Ali who looked upon me with anger and hatred. He conducted me on foot to my father's tomb where he made me swear, and my following with me, that there

would be no intrigue against him. When this was over he presented me with a choga, that Colonel Lockhart had given him, a khatli pony and a rifle and accoutrements; and from that day on looked upon me with increasing favour.

Salam Khan's sister, who was housed with Shermaghzi Taighoon, son of Yurpha Murad, was another object of suspicion to Safdar Ali and people soon began to spread rumours that Taighoon was preparing a plot for his overthrow. He thereupon had Taighoon, Nematulla and Nisiab killed, Sakhawat Shah and Jahandar Shah rolled down a precipice below Ghulkin, their mother put to death and arranged for the murder of Salam Khan in Shimshal.

Moh'd Tara Beg, having obtained the coveted post of Nazir became very insolent and overbearing towards my brother and refused to accept his orders. He even went so far as to go over to Nagir and offer to murder Safdar Ali and me and give the throne to Beza Khan (Mir of Nagir) if he would consent to his retaining the post of Nazir if he became Mir; but luckily Beza Khan's wife was Safdar Ali's sister and she warned him of this plot against his life. I advised Safdar Ali to have no hesitation in executing Tara Beg, but, in spite of the orgy of bloodshed in which he had so recently

indulged, he refused to do this. One consequence of the growing animosity between him and his Wazir was that his trust in me and affection for me became greater as time went on.

At about this time (1888) Colonel Durand accompanied by Lieutenant Manners-Smith and Major Robertson came to Gilgit with a view to forming an Agency there, and travelled via Nagir to Hunza. I and Hafis Khan were sent to welcome them at the Ganesh Rope bridge, which was in so bad a state of repair at that time that Hafis Khan refused to cross it and allowed me to meet the party alone.

We spent that night at Ganesh and on the following morning proceeded to Baltit where we were received with a salute from guns and rifles and where tents had been pitched for the party on the Polo ground. Raja Akbar Khan of Punial accompanied them.

At the third meeting between Colonel Durand and Safdar Ali, which was attended by Lieutenant Manners-Smith, Major Robertson, Major Hassan Shah and a Munshi on their side and Para Beg and I on ours, negotiations were opened, and Colonel Durand explained that, far from wishing to conquer the country, all that the British Government wanted was a road kept up and free passage for the Mail bags to Kashgar; in return for this handsome subsidy and good rewards would be paid. Safdar Ali countered by asking that similar treatment should be

accorded to the Mehtar of Chitral. Colonel Durand answered that he could not commit himself to this but, promised ^{that} on his return to Gilgit he would put the case up to the Government as strongly as he could.

The Colonel then stressed the point that on no account should he have dealings with the Russians and that he should do everything in his power to prevent any Russian from entering his territory; to which Safdar Ali pointed out that he had a Jagir in Yarkand, that friendly relations had existed for a long time with the Chinese, that annual presents were exchanged and that equal rights existed between China and Hunza in Kashgar. Colonel Durand explained that there was no objection to his having friendly relations with the Chinese. He finished by telling Safdar Ali that Captain Younghusband intended coming to Gilgit in five month's time from Ladakh over the Shimshal, and asked him to help him as much as possible on his journey through Hunza.

After the conference Colonel Durand sent Safdar Ali a Khilat; also one to Tara Beg, much to the Mir's annoyance. For each Gushpur he despatched a choga and a hundred rupees, but these never reached their intended recipients as Safdar Ali gave them all to two of his Motibars. As he greatly coveted a tent he asked for one and Colonel Durand told him that he would

send him one from Gilgit; he was so importunate, however, that Colonel Durand eventually gave him one of those he had with him, but he was very much annoyed at his ill-mannered insistence and refused to say goodbye to the Mir when he left on the following morning.

Soon after Sultan Beg of Gulmit had been sent to Shimshal to meet Captain Younghusband a message came from him at Puryang saying that at Raskam he had been annoyed by a Russian, Colonel Granchuski and now proposed entering Hunza by Aphrung and Tagdamdash. A letter to this effect came also from Colonel Durand. Safdar Ali was at Gulmit when the news arrived and arranged for me and Wazir Tara Beg to go to Gircha to receive the officer and make what arrangements we could for his comfort; but at the same time he sent a letter to Colonel Durand stating that he could not supply any coolies unless they were paid at a rate of three rupees a day and asked him to send some from Gilgit. I met Captain Younghusband, who had with him ten Gurkhas and one Ramzana Ladakhi, at Gircha, where I had collected sufficient coolies to carry the considerable amount of kit he had with him; but during the night Tara Beg hoping to share the wages, told the coolies that they were not to take up any load until they had been promised three rupees each a day with the result that on the following morning they showed



Bandsmen dancing in the Mir's Fort at Baltit.

every disposition to refuse to start. With great difficulty I persuaded them to go as far as Khaiber where they were to be relieved by coolis that had been brought from Gulmit and Gulkin. Here again the same trouble broke out, much to Captain Younghusband's annoyance so I beat six of the coolis with a big stick and demanded an explanation from Tara Beg. I told him that if it was his idea that the officer would go back he was quite willing to do so; but I pointed out that the Mir had made a promise to Colonel Durand that every assistance should be given to him; that unless this was done no subsidies would be granted and that I should consider him responsible for the state of affairs. Tara Beg, who had not enough courage to admit his complicity, replied that it was all the fault of the coolis. After this there was no more trouble and we got to Passu and Gulmit, where arrangements had been made for his reception on the Polo ground.

It was arranged that the meeting between Captain Younghusband and the Mir should take place during the following day in the Fort, which is a large one, where in honour of his arrival, the people had been summoned to fire salutes with matchlocks and the four small guns (Sher Bachas) that were there. I was deputed to show him the way as I was the only one that understood Turki,

which his Ladakhi servant spoke, and could translate it into Burushuski. ✓ He wished his escort to fire a salute in honour of the Mir but Tara Beg and his other advisers sent a message asking him not to as they feared that treachery might be intended. Captain Younghusband pointed out to me that he could not possibly take on the whole of Hunza with ten Gurkhas and asked me to take the responsibility; he also requested me to tell the Mir that there should be no firing when he was in his tent as he thought that his own escort might think something was amiss and that this might lead to trouble. Finally I agreed to be responsible for each side and was able to settle things to the satisfaction of both parties .

Captain Younghusband had asked for a horse to be sent for him to ride upon and the Mir wanted to send him an ordinary pack pony, but I arranged for the despatch of a good horse and conducted him and his escort all in full dress, to where the Mir was awaiting him. The escort halted twenty yards from the Mir's tent and the locals began to fire their salute, but neither Safdar Ali nor the Wazir emerged. I left him, therefore, at a distance and went and remonstrated with the Mir and was eventually able to persuade him to come out of the tent and receive him. Captain Younghusband dismounted and shook hands with Safdar Ali and the Wazir and was led into the tent where a friendly conversation took

place, while his escort outside fired a salute. The Mir asked him if he had had any difficulty on the road and he replied that he had suffered great inconvenience and many troubles that had been successfully overcome by Moh'd Nazim Khan; he also added that the Wazir too had been of great assistance to him and thanked Safdar Ali for all the trouble he had taken. He then went on to say, in reply to a question from the Mir, that Jalsa was shortly going to be held in Gilgit and now that he had arrived safely the subsidies and rewards promised by Colonel Durand would be paid to the persons whom he sent to represent him.

Captain Younghusband stayed three days in Gulmit and the night before he left there was such a high wind that all the tents were blown down and had to be re-pitched.

To accompany Captain Younghusband to Gilgit, I, Khairulla, son of Tara Beg and Wakil Daulat Ali were chosen and as we represented Safdar Ali the Hunza Band came with us. On receipt of Safdar Ali's letter Colonel Durand had sent forty coolies from Gilgit with Mukhtar, brother of Wazir Shah Mirza, so there was no difficulty on that account. Captain Younghusband had a very poor pony with him, so I insisted on his riding my Khatli, which he liked very much, while I bestrode his scraggy tat. The road was very bad in those days and we had to ford the river three times before reaching Ahmadabad,

and when we did get there we found that there was no wood; so I had the roof of a water mill pulled down and used that for firewood and obtained supplies from the village. Having rested there for a few hours we pushed on again and reached Baltit at eleven at night. There arrangements had been made on a lavish scale and Captain Younghusband was accomodated in the same place that Colonel Durand had stayed in during his visit; he also met ^{ZENAT} ~~Zamat~~ Shah who had been sent by Uzar Khan from Nagir to receive him. On the following day we reached Ghulmit, travelling by sumayar, thence to Nomal and arrived in Gilgit on the third day.

I had an interview with Colonel Durand during the day after our arrival and Captain Younghusband told him that I was a very active fellow and had been the greatest help to him on the way: Khairulla, son of the Wazir, was also present but, as he did not know the language, he was unable to understand what had been said. While I was there a petition came in from Nagir objecting to the appointment of Moh'd Khan of Astor to the Wazirship of Gilgit - he had been appointed to replace Ghulam Haider who had been banished to Kashmir - on the grounds that, as he had no landed property in Gilgit, he was not so entitled to the post as were some Nagiris; to this Colonel Durand replied that if landed property were the criterion of appointment in Gilgit, he, as an

Englishman, had better go too.

A month after our arrival, the first Jalsa was held in the big hall in the Agency Garden. Uzar Khan, accompanied by Shah Murad and Gushpur Gauri^{Tharun} Khan, was representing the Mir of Nagir and as there had been some dispute between us concerning our precedence during the Durbar, we were both placed on chairs in front of Colonel Durand. The Wazir-i-Wazarat (Ganpat Raj) and all State Officers were present and the British flag was flown. The speech, which was first read in English by Colonel Durand then translated into Urdu and Persian by M. Abdul Hakim and into Shina by W. Rozi Khan (father of W. Moh'd Khan), was to the effect that, as Gilgit consisted of many petty little states, always at war with each other, the British Government had decided to hold the country and that, so long as British Rule continued in India, British Control in the Gilgit Agency would not cease; that the Maharaja of Kashmir would always have a say in the affairs of the Wazarat and that in future a Political Officer would be appointed.

A detachment of a hundred men was then stationed at Jutial who did their musketry training at Sonikot and gave us demonstrations of sports and firing such as we had never seen before.

Soon after this Durbar Captain Younghusband left for India, having given me a certificate, and Colonel

Durand gave us leave to return to our homes. The annual payment of Safdar Ali was fixed at Rs.3000/- and of Wazir Moh'd Tara Beg at Rs.300/- ; I was given Rs.500/- with Kimichab etc., as Khilat and two snider rifles. Before leaving I spoke privately to Colonel Durand and told him that I would either come in myself or send someone else in to tell him what was going on in Hunza if there was any intrigue started by Safdar Ali or Wazir with the Russians.

In 1890 Colonel Gramchuski, a Russian officer, accompanied by twelve Cossacks under a Havildar called Kadenko, wished to pay a visit to Hunza. When I was told of this by Safdar Ali I advised him not to allow it and to have the Russians turned back from Murkushi, pointing out that we had just promised the British Government that we would have no truck with Russia and had received, in consequence, subsidies of considerable value. Wazir Tara Beg, however, was all in favour of letting them come, thinking that it would enhance our prestige with the Government and on my stressing my point of view sarcastically remarked to a Motibar called Khurram Shah that it was but natural that I, having received rewards from Colonel Durand should be true to his salt.

However, Safdar Ali decided that he should be allowed to come and, as I had refused to go, sent Moh'd Nafis and Noor Hayat, son of Mirza Hassan of Gulmit

as far as Misgar to meet him. The road was then so bad that he was forced to come by the Baskuchi road which runs above Attabad and by the time he reached Altit his ponies were so lame that they could scarcely hobble.

While we were waiting for his arrival, Safdar Ali called a Council of State and, remarking that I was acquainted with both Governments, asked me which of them I thought it best to conciliate. I pointed out to him that Russia and China were too far away to do us any good as their nearest posts in Alai and Marghalan were very much farther from our border than was Gilgit where British troops were stationed; that the British Government had said they would help us and had given subsidies to us. But the council after listening to me would not accept my point of view and continued to pursue the policy that was to lead them ultimately to disaster.

The day after his arrival in Baltit Colonel Gramchuski paid a visit to the Mir. He was tall, gracefully built and very good looking and could speak Turki well although as he was unacquainted with Persian, Gul Moh'd Gilmiti and I acted as interpreters.

The Wazir's son and Moh'd Nafis Khan were sent to conduct him to the Mir who walked forward a couple of paces to receive him on his arrival, while the local people, who had been ordered to assemble, fired salutes in his honour to which his cossacks replied by firing

two volleys. The Mir made formal enquiries about his health and expressed the hope that he had had no trouble on the way, to which he replied that, although he had had no serious trouble, he could not help remarking that the road was in a very bad condition.

On the following day I returned the visit on behalf of the Mir with whom he later on had an informal conversation. He said that he had come from the Czar of Russia as it was rumoured that there was a danger of Hunza coming under the sway of the British to prevent which happening, they must be friendly towards Russia who intended coming to Kizil Robat, having a Military Post at Bozai Gunbaz and pushing forward another post to occupy Baltit. He said that in the event of this last happening, three hundred rifles and two guns would be sent there and a Russian officer would accompany them and be able to train the men of Hunza in all the latest developments of warfare. He insisted that no overt act of hostility should be shown to the British Government until these plans had matured after which, he said, there would be no chance of the British casting covetous looks at the Mir's territory.

The Mir's reply was to the effect that he was free to make friendships when and where he would. He said that Hunza was on friendly terms with the British and with the Maharaja of Kashmir; that, relations of

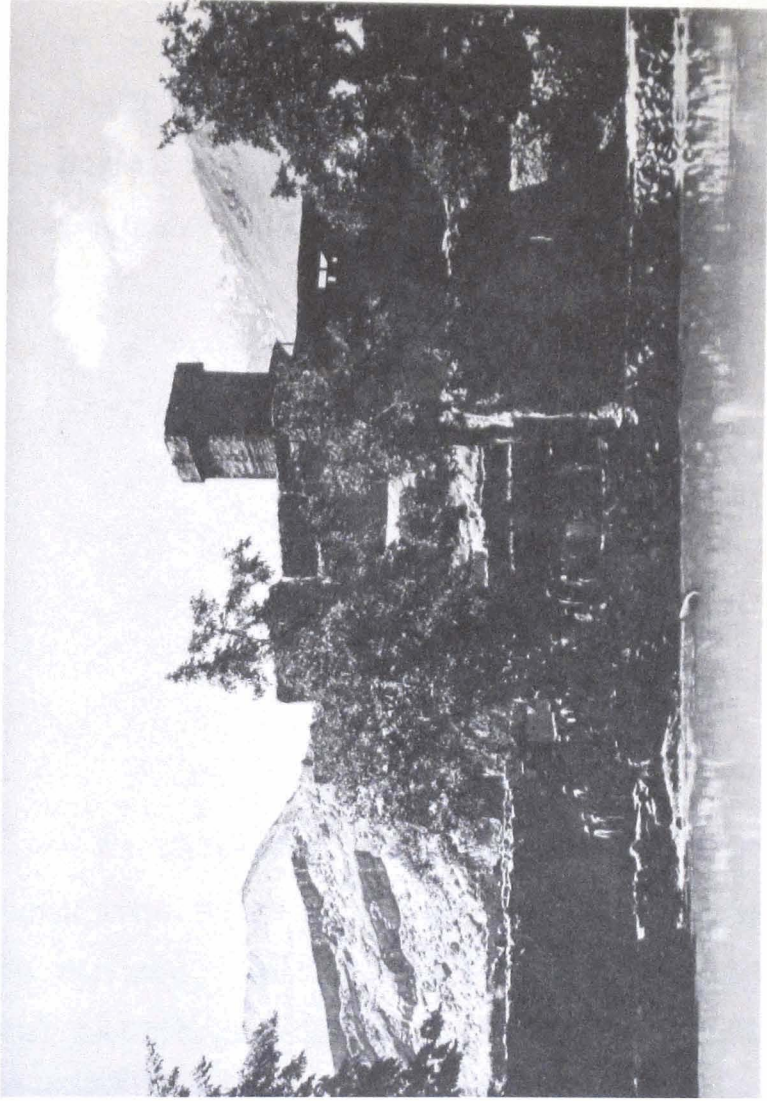
of subordination as well as equality existed between him and China; that the Maharaja of Kashmir had four times tried to conquer Hunza but, having failed, was now making peace with them and that as China had never tried to send people into his country to rule it he did not see why anyone should. I translated this speech into Turki for the Russian.

After a week, during which a display of musketry was arranged by the Mir between Karimabad and Ghamasdass, the Russian took his departure giving the Mir as a present some silk and Banat cloth, a pony and two breech loading rifles; to the Wazir a rifle and a pony which was in such poor condition that it died shortly after his departure. I accompanied him to Altit where I plied him with wine that I might get to learn what he really thought, and he told me that he considered all the rest of them fools and that I was the only one with any real intelligence. He said that a Military Post was being established at Bozai Gunbaz and that if the Mir did not go back on his promises the British would never dare overrun his territory. I retorted that the British were a great nation and if they really intended to take over Hunza, they would do it and nobody could stop them; that the Maharaja's army had certainly tried and failed but that was no criterion that the same thing would happen if the British attacked. He then told me that if the Russians succeeded in establish-

ing a post at Bozai Gunbaz before Hunza was conquered by the British, there was little doubt but that Hunza would, in time, become Russian territory. He wanted me to accompany him to Bozai Gunbaz so that he might send back by me the rifles and other military equipment he had promised, but I refused to go and so, having given me a Russian pistol, one chappan of Maoof (silk of good quality) and ten chinese coins, he set off alone on the following morning.

Before his departure the Mir and Wazir sent him some swords and country matchlocks and he was so pleased with these local weapons that the Mir promised to send him some more later through the Agents that he eventually hoped to despatch.

This question of sending Agents to the Russian court was debated at considerable length but after three months the Mir decided to send Gul Moh'd and Tulla with presents consisting of country shields, swords and matchlocks. As these Agents would have to pass through Kashgar a letter was written to the Daotai saying that His Highness, The Agha Khan had asked for two first class hawks and requesting that the men might be permitted to go to Kokand to obtain them. This letter was shown to Mr. Macartney, the first British Consul there, who allowed the men to enter Russian territory. When, however, he found out that



Altit Fort.

the Russian officer there had given them a present of six rifles to take back to the Mir, he informed the Chinese authorities who had them arrested at the Frontier and the rifles confiscated. They were then allowed to return to Hunza with the other presents.

All this information I sent verbally to Colonel Durand through Kushwakt the father of Raja Shahdidul Ajam.

CHAPTER IV.

At this time the Kashmir State Forces had a small garrison at Chaprot, a fort at Nomal held by two hundred men and a small post of a section across the river at Matamdass. It was decided that Hunza and Nagir should combine against them and try and drive them back to Gilgit.

As Safdar Ali and Uzar Khan were related there was little difficulty in getting an army together and, after Chaprot had been taken, a force of some three

thousand men commanded by me and Wazir Tara Beg for Hunza and Sikandar Khan and Gauri Tham for Nagir, was assembled at Chalt where a male goat was sacrificed, after the custom of the country, and dances with the respective flags of the tribesmen were performed. Then the horde moved on to Gwich where a halt was made, though Uzar Khan still remained at Chalt.

Much to my regret, for it seemed improbable that any man could be sent from Gilgit by Jutial, I and Sikandar Khan were ordered to take four hundred men across the river and occupy Matumdass while Wazir Tara Beg and Moh'd Nafis marched against Nomal where they succeeded in capturing Major Mirza Jan. He, however, promised them that if they would release him he would enter the fort and open the gates to them and they, foolishly believing him, allowed him to escape and enter the fort whose garrison he warned of the impending attack.

The Hunza-Nagir forces assembled in a garden near Raja Kamal Khan's house and started the attack on Nomal in a line extending from the river up to the village Kuhl while I, on the opposite side of the river, captured all the Balti coolies that were collected there and tried to give help by rifle fire from my position. Unfortunately as all the rifles with my force were country matchlocks the bullets fell short.

The first objective was the smaller fort and before it could be reached the garrison, led by Major Makhan Singh, sallied out and fell upon the attacking forces. They, however, were well armed for fighting at so close a range and, at the first volley, killed the Major and inflicted a great many casualties. Seeing that their leader had fallen the remaining men fled and, entering the big fort, were able to shut the doors in the face of the pursuing foe. Meanwhile, Pehlwan of ~~Chash~~^{Ganik}, mistaking the primary objective, scaled the wall of the big fort with a flag in his hand and fell, single-handed, upon the garrison within killing three of them before he was himself overpowered.

In spite of the success that had attended the fight the Hunza-Nagir forces did not make another attack and retired to Chalt where the hereditary enmity between Hunza and Nagir was making itself felt. Actual trouble, was however, averted and the Hunza army returned to its own territory.

Although, in this case, Safdar Ali had been the aggressor, it seemed to him to be an admirable opportunity to send to the Chinese officials a petition representing that the Maharaja was continually harassing him and begging to be supplied with arms and ammunition to repel the constant aggression of the State Forces. Darwesh Ali was, accordingly despatched to Kashgar and

returned with a Chinese officer called Jangdarin who had been sent to verify this report. I went as far as Attabad to receive him, accompanied by the Wazir's son, and he asked me, as soon as we had met, whether it was true that the Maharaja was always attacking our forces and trying to overrun our territory. I replied that it was true, that a battle had recently taken place of which Safdar Ali would give him a full account and conducted him to Baltit where arrangements had been made for his reception on the polo ground.

He saw the Mir on the following day and asked him frankly what the relations were between him and the Maharaja and received the reply, that as the State Forces had recently been driven out of Chaprot it was very probable that an attack would shortly be delivered on Hunza and that owing to the recent operations there was a great shortage of ammunition in Hunza although there were enough rifles.

He showed Jangdarin the rifles that Colonel Durand had given him and suggested that, perhaps, it might be better if I were to return to Kashgar with him and personally make application to the Daotai and Chitai for what was so sorely needed.

The Chinese officer - the first one that had ever entered Hunza territory - agreed to this and after six days I set out with Nazar Ali who had frequently visited Kashgar on Hunza business and was well acquainted

with the road.

We reached Yangi Shahr travelling via Tangi Tar where the Amban was very kind to us and gave us food . In those days there was no Amban stationed at Tashkurgan, the Chinese interests there being represented by Tulabai Beg and Yakub Beg at Tung and by Karim Beg. I had with me the twelve Baltis that I had captured at Matamdass during the attack on Nomal and had had instructions from Safdar Ali that I was to sell them at Yarkand to Shamsheer Akhun who was a friend of his. This I did and received horses, etc., in exchange. Soon after we entered the old city of Kashgar and were received there, with great pomp and ceremony, by the Daotai.

He informed me in our interview that Jangdarin had already told him that it was we who had created the recent trouble with the Kashmir authorities and asked me if they had ever invaded Hunza before. I replied that in the time of Shah Ghazanfar Khan the State Forces had tried to attack Hunza, but that they had been defeated and all but one man killed; that soon after my father's accession Jawahar Singh and Sardar Samad Khan had combined with Nagir in an attempt to enter the country, but that they had been beaten at Ganesh while the Nagir forces, that had tried to get round on the heights behind Baltit, had been routed on the Altit Range; that for the third time an attack had been made by the Maharaja's

forces which had been held up by combined Hunza-Nagir action at Nilt. He then enquired how it was that the British had come to Hunza and I told him that in my father's time Colonels Biddulf and Lockhart had come as travellers. He closed the interview with the advice that I must go to Yangi Shahr where the Chitai, by whom all arrangements for Military stores were made, had his headquarters, saying that the granting of the Mir's request lay with him alone. He did, however, tell me that he would send a recommendation to him and that he hoped that I would get what I wanted.

I then visited the Chitai and stayed in his fort, Jangdarin accompanying me. I was conducted into his presence with great formality and made him my father's request. He did not believe me at first and it was not until Jangdarin had testified to the correctness of my story that he gave me two boxes of ammunition and two magazine rifles that fired twelve rounds at a time. They were not very good, however, as at that time the Chinese had no British made rifles. He then asked me if we had any cannon but was unable to provide any cannon balls as I could not tell him the exact bore although he promised that he would send some if we let him know what size was required. He asked me where we had got them from and I told him that one of them had been cast in Hunza and that the other had been captured

from Tashkurgan fort when we had conquered that place and Sarikol in the time of Alif Beg and Khush Beg . He then gave me presents for myself and some for the Mir.

After bidding him farewell we proceeded via Yarkand on our return journey to Hunza but had not got very far on our way when Tila came in with the news that as slavery was forbidden, the Balti coolies had been released by the Amban's order, and that Shamsher Akhun had been awarded the punishment of five hundred lashes and had been cast into jail. I immediately retraced my steps and went to interview Kupaq Amban, the chief of all the Ambans, who was feared throughout the countryside for his fiery temper and the readiness he showed to beat anyone and everyone if occasion offered.

During the interview I pointed out to him that Safdar Ali was quite unaware that slavery had been forbidden and would be very much annoyed when he heard of the treatment that had been meted out to his friend Shamsher Akhun whom I suggested should at once be set free. This suggestion appeared to annoy the Amban who became very red in the face and showed clear signs of an approaching outburst of temper, but I simulated an equal fury and he soon calmed down again. Finally he said that as he was responsible for setting the slaves free he would pay the cost of them and I asked him to have them brought before me so that I could see that everyting was

conducted fairly.

I then returned to my residence outside which a large mob of about four hundred Kashmiris, residents of Yarkand, who had heard about the slavery, had assembled with stones and sticks in their hands. We were only ten men but each of my followers provided himself with a thick stick and I, with a sword in one hand and a breach-loading rifle in the other, showed myself through the door to the crowd which as soon as they saw that I was prepared to deal with them if they attacked, took to their heels and rushed to Amban with the news that the Mir of Hunza's brother had come out to kill them. The Amban and his soldiers came hurriedly to remonstrate with me and again I showed them that I was prepared to fight if necessary, so he contented himself with telling me that such a show of arms was undesirable in Chinese territory and promised that he would set Shamsher Akhun free, which he did the next day. Shamsher Akhun presented me with a pony and some money and retained me as his guest for three days during which time he entertained me with the most sumptuous hospitality.

Leaving Yarkand for the second time we reached Chamasil via Tung where the river was so high that both men and animals had to cross it on rafts, during which crossing Aliar fell into the water and was washed away

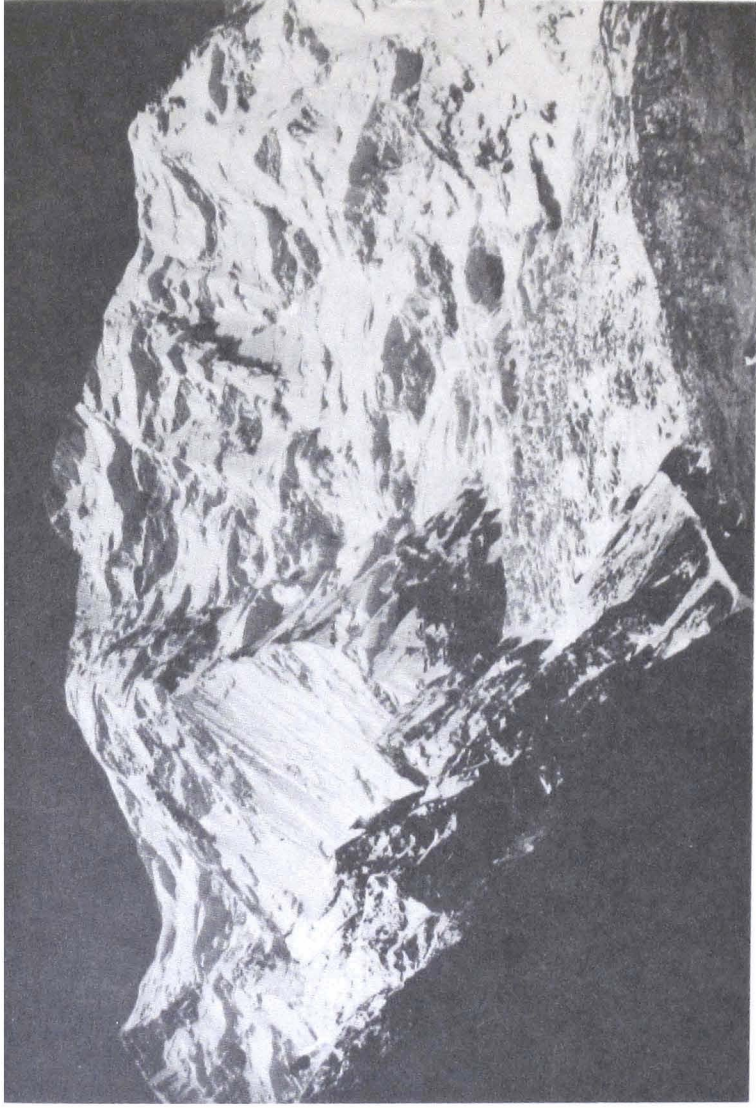
before we could do anything to save him. At Mustak the water was very deep also, but we were able to get across it safely and were met by Abdul Hassan, the father of Karim Beg who, though a little deranged mentally, received us with every show of respect. From there by Kandree^o and Oghri-Yurch to Dafdar then to Paik from which place Tulla Bai Beg, Mirmai, and Kech Moh'd (Kachan Moh'd) made arrangements for our coolies as far as the Mintaka by which pass we re-entered Hunza territory. On reaching Baltit I told Safdar Ali all that had passed and placed before him the presents I had been given, which pleased him very much.

Safdar Ali had arranged to give one of his daughters in marriage to Uzar Khan of Nagir and so sent me again to Kashgar during the following year, to see if I could arrange for the Daotai to send a marriage present and also to get some cloth and materials that he wanted in this connection. This time I did not go by Yarkand as I was travelling with Nazir Ali who was going by the quickest route with the present of gold that was sent annually by the Mir to the Chinese, and which I had promised to see safely to it's destination.

Its reseption by the Chinese authorities was a very impressive ceremony. A durbar was assembled which consisted of the Daotai and sixty other Chinese

officials, who sat on his right and left, each decorated with peacock feathers according to his rank. While I was still some way off a shout was raised that the Ichan of Kanjut had brought fifteen bags of gold, a plate was brought to me and the gold was placed upon this and covered with a silk handkerchief. When I reached about twenty paces from the Durbar all those present rose to their feet making strange motions with their hands, almost as though they were worshipping the gold, whilst a salute of twelve guns was fired. A weighing scale was all ready and as soon as the gold had been weighed out ten soldiers took it up and layed it upon the Daotai's feet. He then asked me how the Mir was and whether the state of the crops was good etc., etc. Before I left the Durbar he asked me the reason for my visit and I told him quite frankly that it was to ask for 'pandar' (the marriage contribution that friends and relations make) as a marriage had been arranged between one of Safdar Ali's daughters with the ruling family of Nagir.

During my stay I showed a letter from Safdar Ali in which he stated that in the previous year when Colonel Gramchuski was on his way back from Hunza he had killed three tame Yaks. I was referred to the Russian Consul to whom I was taken by a Chinese official. He received me very graciously and admitted that the facts were true saying that the party had had to kill



The summit of Rakaposhi (25,500 ft) showing more than 15,000 ft of sheer mountain face.

these Yaks as it was faced with starvation, but it had thought that they belonged to Sarikulis. He was quite willing to pay any price that I suggested and when I mentioned fifty rupees each he immediately gave me the money.

He asked me to dine with him that night and, after getting permission from my Chinese hosts, I presented myself at his house. We dined in the European style and his wife was there with him. At first the conversation was desultory but gradually he became more and more inquisitive about Hunza and to his questions I returned replies sometimes discreet and short, sometimes voluminous and carried almost to the point of exaggeration. He said that he hoped a representative from the Czar would soon be sent to Hunza and that we would then allow him also to pay us a visit and in any case refrain from murdering any Russian traveller who wanted to pass that way. To this I asked who murdered travellers and why? He begged me to write him a letter on my return to Hunza; I informed him that I was unable to write but that I would mention the matter to Safdar Ali though I could not promise that he would do so. Finally he asked me whether Rashkam belonged to us or to the Chinese and I told him that it had come into our possession two years ago before which it had belonged to China, which

led ^{him} me to tell me that the Chinese administration was so rotten that he could take all Kashgaria with the legation servants were he so inclined.

After five hours I took leave of him and was presented with many presents including a stick that had a knife and other implements in the handle, a chappan (overcoat) of Maoot and a hundred cartridges for the rifle which Safdar Ali had confiscated from Alif Beg of Sarikul and with which on my return journey I shot two Ovis Poli with two shots.

I told the Daotai all that had been said during dinner and he told me that the Russian Consul was a great mischief-monger though I noticed that he was held in considerable awe and consulted by the Chinese when anything went wrong.

After two weeks spent very pleasantly in Kashgar I returned to Hunza via Tiznif, where I met Mr. Macartney and Captain Younghusband who had come up there to start the British Consulate and were on their way to Aktash and Murghab. I had with me silk worth about five hundred rupees as a present from the Daotai for the Mir, a Kalmaki pony and some other things that I had purchased at Safdar Ali's request.

In the summer of that year the marriage between Uzar Khan's son and Safdar Ali's daughter took place and, although it appeared on the surface that friendship existed between the two countries, there was little doubt

but that the old enmity was only lying dormant and was ready to break out on the slightest provocation. In order to help things Wazir Tara Beg had been made milk-father to both sides but it soon became obvious - in fact information to this effect was sent by Safdar Ali's sister - that he was playing a double game in the hope of making what he could out of the situation. While pretending to be loyal to my father he was offering the throne of Hunza to Uzar Khan; while pretending to the people that he was their friend, he fully intended reviving the taxes that my father had abolished as soon as he had enough power to do it. He was continually preaching hatred of the British to both sides telling both the Mirs that if they did not prevent it Hunza and Nagir would be occupied

Safdar Ali asked me what I thought ought to be done about it and on consideration, I replied that if all the things he had told me about Tara Beg were true he should undoubtedly be put to death. This, however, the Mir refused to do and so things went from bad to worse.

It was at this time - in 1891 - that Colonel Durand returned to Gilgit. He wished to send a letter to Kashgar and, when Safdar Ali refused to let it go through, he realised what had happened and immediately prepared an expedition against Hunza.

At this time I was at Irshad with a small force

of three hundred men stationed there to prevent the Mehtar of Chitral from entering the country. While there I received urgent orders from Safdar Ali to return to Baltit immediately. I travelled night and day and arrived in twenty four hours. Safdar Ali had been at Khanabad but his forces had been defeated there and he had returned to Hunza. He wanted me to go over into China and raise an army to help him, but I told him that China was too far away and that even if they were willing to come to his aid it would be long before they could do anything to help him. He then asked me to go to Lieutenant Manners-Smith and sue for peace so accordingly off I went towards Nilt where the forces then were, but before I reached there I heard that the place had fallen. I met Tara Beg and Nazar Khan returning and they told me that it was then too late to treat with the enemy and that flight was all that was left to them.

When I returned to Baltit I found that Safdar Ali and Uzar Khan had already started on their flight. I had previously told them that I thought this was foolish and had advised them to await the coming of the British and explain to them that Tara Beg had been at the bottom of all the trouble, but they would not heed my advice. The consequence was that the whole country was in a very unsettled state and consternation was rife among the Motibars and other people of importance. I did my best to

pacify them but without success and about four hundred men from Hunza and Nagir left their country and fled towards Kashgar and, as Safdar Ali, had taken my family with him in his hurried departure, I, perforce, had to go too.

I caught up with Safdar Ali at Ghujjad Bai and found that Uzar Khan was there too. All the Motibars of Sarikul had collected there - Tilla Khan, Yakub Khan, Muhabat Shah, Sayid Shah Talib and Asman Beg Kirghis of Taghdambash - but no one had taken any steps to furnish the refugees with supplies. Directly I arrived there I ordered that three Khargahs should be pitched and some provisions produced after which a great deal more respect and courtesy was shown to our party.

On the following day we reached Dafdar - a small place inhabited occasionally by Nomads - where four sheep were presented to me and from here Safdar Ali went on a day ahead. From Dafdar we went to Jurgool and thence to Tughnan Shahr where Sayid Shah Talib fed all four hundred refugees.

From there we marched to Sarikul where the locals at first refused to allow us to occupy the fort as they feared the Chinese authorities might object; on my telling them, however, that I was willing to take all responsibility and to pay any fine that might be imposed they withdrew their objections and I and Safdar

Ali took up our abode there, on the understanding that if the Chinese should send men there we would evacuate it for them.

At that time Karim Beg was at Tung but Yakub Shah and Tulla Bai were with us at Sarikul.

Our numbers were noted down and sent to the Khan Daotai at Kashgar and, as there were too many of us to be supported by the limited resources of the country, Wazir Tara Beg and twenty of his men went to Tiznif, a hundred men were sent to Chosman and another hundred to Tughnan and Kazghan. I then summoned all the local headmen and suggested to them that until news came from the Chinese authorities we should be given the same food as they had in their houses. To this they demurred but, partly by cajolery, partly by simulated wrath and chiefly because I pointed out to them that if any of the refugees were to die of starvation they would be held responsible by the Chinese, they consented and divided the party up between the neighbouring villages where they were fed, the sale of their weapons providing money to pay for what they consumed. Forty sheep belonging to Safdar Ali, that were grazing near by, were driven in and they were slaughtered for him and his followers.

After a week we heard that Jangdarin with a hundred soldiers would soon be arriving and, as we had promised to leave the fort if it was wanted by the Chinese,

we made arrangements for accommodation at Tughnan Shahr, sent our families there and ourselves went to meet Jangdarin at Taghrama as Safdar Ali feared that the Sarikulis might give him a wrong impression of us if they spoke to him first.

The Chinese officer recognised me at once and asked me what had happened. I gave him a short account then and afterwards, in seclusion of his Khirgah, told him the whole story.

He said that the Sarikulis had informed him that the British had attacked Hunza unprovoked and had driven the people out of the country. I was able to tell him that the reverse was the case as the Mir had promised to keep a road open for English Mails going to Kashgar and to refuse passage to any Russians who might wish to visit the country: owing, however, to the Machinations of Wazir Tara Beg and Uzar Khan of Nagir, in whose schemes he was but a tool, he had made a secret agreement with Russia and had refused to allow the mail to go through, with the consequence that the British had attacked his country, conquered it and that now he was a supplicant at the throne of the Emperor of China.

He asked me what the total number of refugees was and I told him that, including women and children, it was five hundred souls from Hunza and about three hundred from Nagir and that, thanks to the generosity of the Sarikul

Mottibars, food had been produced for them all for the sake of the good name of the Emperor of China. This pleased him very much.

He then summoned the Sarikulis and asked them where his men were going to be accommodated and was informed that the fort had been commandeered by me on arrival but that on hearing of the proximity of the Chinese troops, it had been evacuated and other shelter had been found for us. This also pleased him.

The Jangdarin told us that he brought supplies with him from Kashgar but, that, he regretted that the wheat was not ground. He then went on to talk about Hunza affairs and said that everyone knew that the people of Hunza were fools but he thought that I, having more sense than most of them, might have prevented them from committing the ineffable blunder of making an open breach with the British Government. I replied that I did what I could and condemned wars against Emperors but murmurs had arisen that I had taken bribes, from both sides and after that I could say no more. He asked me if the Mir wanted a war against the British and I replied that I could not answer that for him; he also wondered why I had not written to him through the Mir's munshi to which I replied that the Munshi could write at the Mir's dictation alone.

The following day we started off for Tashkurghan where all the refugees had been assembled in a field to meet the Chinese Officer. Among them were Uzar Khan of Nagir.

and Tara Beg, the late Wazir of Hunza. Fifty Chinese soldiers marched in front of us, fifty behind and at the extreme rear came the Sarikuli Mottibars. At his request I introduced the notables among the refugees to Jangdarin but he took little notice of them in spite of the fact that they all had their bands playing and flags waving in his honour and, as soon as the fort was reached he asked me to send them all away saying that he would see them on the following day when rations were to be distributed among them.

Wazir Tara Beg had been told to return to Tiznif but he remained outside the fort after the other people had dispersed and was finally sent for by Jangdarin, who was seated with three or four other Chinese officials and an interpreter.

On being interrogated as to why he had relinquished Hunza territory to the British and fled into China, he replied that the British had conquered the country as they had been refused the right of way through it; that the right of way had been refused only because the Mir considered that the Great Emperor of China would not like it; but China had sent them no help although Jangdarin had visited Hunza before and had expressed a desire that the British should not enter Hunza territory. Therefore, he concluded, the people of Hunza had come as refugees for the protection of the Khakan. Jangdarin

then asked what pressure had been brought to bear on the people and what steps they had taken to defend themselves and was answered by Tara Beg that the British had attacked in overwhelming numbers and, although the Hunza people had wrought havoc among them, they had been outnumbered and forced to fly.

Janguarin replied that he was telling lies and was a rogue, and that anyway if he had not been such a coward he would have chosen to die on the battlefield rather than to run away, adding that it was due to him alone that the British were now in possession of Hunza. I told Tara Beg that he must remember that he was now talking before a representative of a great power and that lying words such as those that he had been accustomed to use in Hunza would not help him now.

We were then dismissed but I was immediately recalled as Karim Beg had arrived from Tung. I was given a sheep, eight seers of rice and twenty seers of flour, but to Tara Beg nothing was given and he returned alone to Tiznif.

Two days later a hundred pony loads consisting of unground wheat and makki arrived and all the refugees were assembled before a big Khargah that was pitched at Harali and issued with food. Tara Beg made a speech thanking the Jangdarin for this good food but I considered that something ought to be done about the unground wheat as we had nothing to grind it with, so I asked him if it



Coolis being helped across a spate.

had, it continued, waged war on the Government and had now sustained defeat, but if he returned to Hunza no harm would befall him. If he did not wish to return Moh'd Nazim Khan should be sent back to assume control of the country. This was told to me by Jangdarin who summoned me privately to his presence and read the letter to me, without any interpreter even, being there. I wished for confirmation of the news before starting back, and the following day a letter came ^{from} ~~from~~ Kharkash asking me to return within a week and take up the reins of government. Major Stewart was then at Baltit and there were detachments of troops under Captain Malone at Khaiber and Captain Trail at Gilmit.

I asked Jangdarin to let me see the Colonel's letter and he showed it to me. I also asked him what he advised me to do about the matter and what he thought would become of Safdar Ali. His reading of the situation was that the British Government certainly did not want to have the bother of running Hunza but that as Safdar Ali had committed two grave crimes - the murder of his Father by which he had cut away the branch upon which he was sitting and the fight against the Government - it was unlikely that he could be re-instated; I, on the other hand, was in favour with the Government and owing to my influence with the people as a direct descendant of the last Mir, was in a better position to assume the Mirri than anyone else was. He also told me quite frankly that

I could expect no help from the Chinese Government who did not intend to become embroiled with the British on so trivial a pretext, and advised me very strongly to do as Colonel Durand wished and return to the country.

I decided to do this but first I ask Jangdarin to get rid of Tara Beg as I felt sure that he would cause trouble were he also to return.

After some discussion we decided that it would be best if we could send him to Kashgar so that he would be unable to influence the refugees against me and there would then be more likelihood of their returning with me. Safdar Ali was accordingly sent for on the following morning and it was suggested to him that he should send his Wazir to the Dao tao at Kashgar and Moh'd Nafis or Moh'd Nazim to Yarkand to help raise a force of Chinese soldiers with the help of whom he could re-enter his kingdom and expel the British. The ^{Jungdarin} Dao tai, who knew Turki well as he had accepted Islam at the time of Badaulat, though he had rejected it again as soon as it was safe to do so, and I were the only people present at this interview and I interpreted for Safdar Ali.

Safdar Ali was very much pleased with these proposals and suggested that it might be better if I were to go to Kashgar instead of Tara Beg, as he thought that I might have more influence with the authorities there than he could command and he felt that once he got

out of his sight he might be up to some new mischief. Jangdarin asked me if I were willing to go and I replied that I would very much like to do so but that, as my Mother was very old and my children were very young, I could not leave them. I suggested, however, that Moh'd Nafis might go and he and Gul Moh'd who knew Turki, were despatched two days later.

After they had gone Jangdarin called for me and urged me to return to Hunza with as little delay as possible, and we proceeded to concoct a story that would prove pleasing to Safdar Ali and lull to rest any suspicions he might have about my good faith. Safdar Ali was, accordingly, called before him and told that it was considered advisable for me to return to Hunza with a few Mottibars so as to sway the people to his cause. He was delighted when he heard this but bade me tell Jangdarin on his behalf - for I felt that he suspected me - that he (Safdar Ali) was the elder and heir to the throne and he could consider me only as his heir apparent; this I translated to Jangdarin as a statement that Safdar Ali was agreeable to my going back to Hunza, looked on me as his successor during his absence and would do all in his power to further my interests. It is sometimes a useful thing to be your interpreter!

Safdar Ali was very attentive to me after this meeting and allowed Fazil and Daulat Shah Wakil to

accompany me. Before I left he impressed upon me the importance of doing all that I could to reconcile the Government and his people to him and told me that if he were recalled to Hunza I could rule at Altit. He went so far as to suggest that this promise should be put into writing if I would swear in return that I would not desert his cause. This last I refuse to do as I pointed out that it was quite probable that I would be imprisoned by the British and if this happened I would be unable to keep my oath to him.

Summoning all the refugees I told them that I was returning to Hunza to prepare the way for Safdar Ali and advised them to accompany me. Jangdarin also told them that it would be wiser for them to go so that they could be ready to acclaim Safdar Ali when he returned with Chinese soldiers to reconquer his country. About three hundred of them - all except the personal friends of Safdar Ali - came with me.

Karim Bai Beg, who was not on very good terms with Safdar Ali, and all the Sarikuli Mottibars gave me presents before I left as they had an idea that I was going back to rule Hunza, for, when the invading force had reached Jatorkhan, Colonel Robertson and Lieut Manners-Smith had asked where I was and, on being informed that I had crossed the border, told the people of Hunza that they were to send for me as he intended to make me Mir.

They despatched Nooroo to catch me up and bring me back but, unfortunately, there were some of Safdar Ali's followers behind me and when they heard of his mission they beat him and sold him into slavery to a Kirghiz. I heard this when I reached Ghujad Bai and obtained his release by threatening to report the Kirghiz to the Chinese for having interfered with one of my Mottibars.

Five days before I started Uzar Khan, who had been refused asylum in Chinese territory, had left for Nagir. I overtook him when he was encamped at Luggaz and he was so terrified when he saw that I had an escort of Chinese soldiers that he came to me and implored me to intercede for him with the British authorities. I, however, told him that the time for intercession was passed but I would do what I could.

Safdar Ali refused to allow his daughter who had married Uzar Khan's son go back with her husband.

At Luggaz I was met by Kharkash who had with him a letter for me from Humayun Beg who had returned from Chitral and had persuaded all the Mottibars to come over to my side. He had obtained the thumb impressions of them all. I later took the messenger aside and told him to take the letter on to Jangdarin who, as soon as he had read it, had Safdar Ali bound hand and foot and taken to Kasngar where he was interned

in the fort where were also Tara Beg and his son Khairulla who subsequently died there.

I proceeded on my way until I reached Khaiber where I went to visit Captain Malone. His detachment objected to my Chinese escort carrying arms during the interview, they refused to give them up and it looked at one time as though there might be trouble; but Captain Malone said that he could see no reason why they should disarm and after that everything went well.

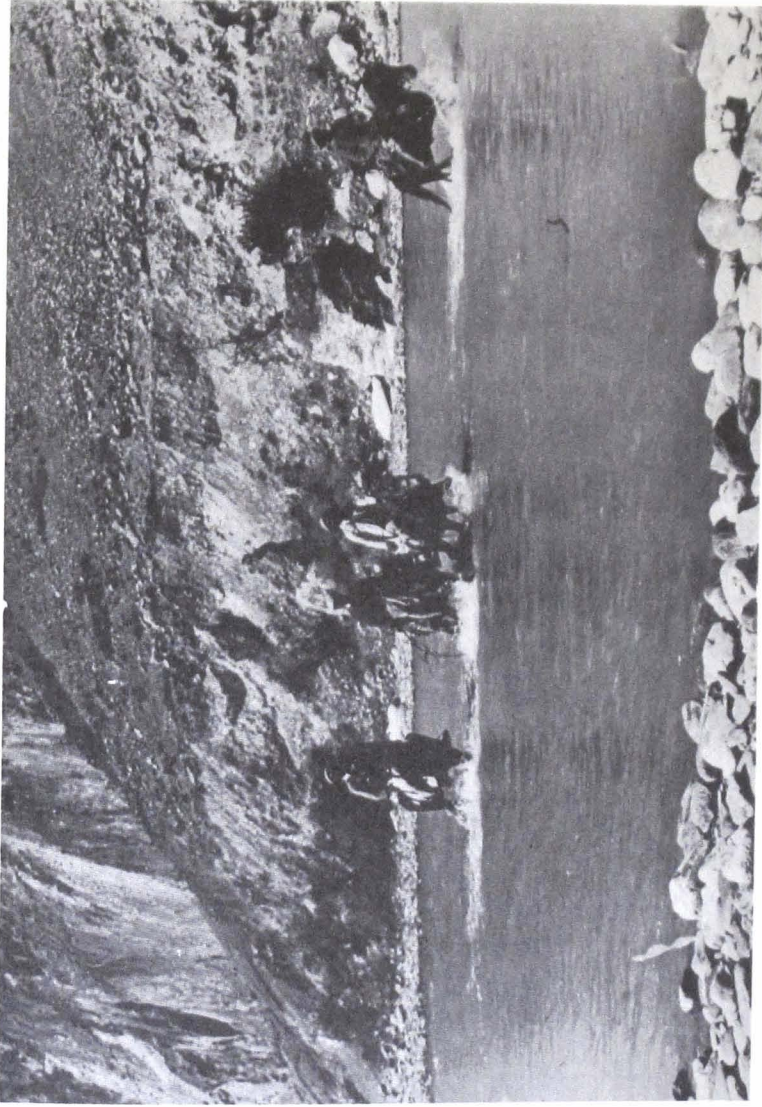
At Passu I met Major Stewart who advised me to sleep in a house and not in a tent in case someone should try and kill me. I took his advice and shared one with Humayun Beg who was awaiting me there. At Gilmit I met Captain Trail. From there I went to Ahmadabad and thence to Baltit where I was made very welcome, the people, who had been informed by Colonel Stewart that I was returning, lining the road all the way from Altit to Baltit and cheering, weeping and crying out that by the grace of God I had been allowed to come back to them. I found that the troops were stationed in the Fort and that Major Stewart had taken up his abode in Shumal Bagh where Safdar Ali had lived.

Two days after my arrival Uzar Khan was taken through Hunza as a prisoner and was sent to Kashmir, although his children, who were young, were allowed to return to Nagir with their Mothers. On the same day Humayan Beg and the Mottibars came to me and asked me

if I was willing to remain in Hunza as Mir or whether I wanted to rejoin Safdar Ali and return to Chinese territory. I told them that I had come back to Hunza as Colonel Durand had sent for me and that now I was there I would certainly remain.

On the following day I was summoned by Colonel Durand who asked me to give him a full account of what had happened over the Chinese border. Having recounted what has already been related I told him that I had heard that, since I left, Safdar Ali had been bound and taken away to Kashgar; his family had been sent to the Yarkand Jagir and the remainder of the refugees, who had not returned with me, had been collected before the tent of the Chinese official and told by him that it had been decided by the British Government and the Emperor of China that Safdar Ali was unfit to continue his rule and that the Mirri of Hunza had been conferred upon me. They were thereupon given rations and started on their return journey to Hunza and soon afterwards we heard that they had reached Misgar.

The whole case was referred to Colonel Durand and after about a week I heard that he had decided that the land should be restored to me. He also asked me if I could prove that my father had intended me ever to rule and I was able to produce a Sanad signed by



Fording the Hunza River.

him and witnessed by Humayun Beg and Sikander Khan in which it was stated that he considered me to be the next heir after Safdar Ali.

We passed a very pleasant time while the troops were at Baltit. At first they started cutting down fruit trees for firewood but they were stopped from doing this when I mentioned the matter to Major Stewart. After this very friendly relations existed between us and I used to play football and other sports with them. Major Stewart was relieved and in his place came a Captain Bradshaw. Just before this all my family arrived and I sent off Fazil to Yarkand to watch over my interests there and Daulat Shah to his home in Sliabad.

Soon after my return to Hunza the time of the annual Jalsa drew near and I, accompanied by Wazir Humayun Beg and my chief elders, left for Gilgit to attend it. It was held in the Agency Garden and all the Rajas of the surrounding states, including the Mehtar of Chitral and his Wazir Nayat Shah - for the Chitral subsidies were paid from Gilgit then - were there. There was no representative from Nagir, however, as Raja Sikander Khan and Khisro Khan had gone down to Calcutta with Wazir Zada Moh'd and some of my Mottibars while I was still over the border, to make their obeisance to the Prince of Wales. I had

an interview with Colonel Durand on the day after my arrival in which he told me that I had done right in returning to Hunza with most of the refugees and that the Government of India had decided that I was fit to be the ruler of the country and that he would instal me at the Durbar. He then reminded me of the promises that had been made at the time when Captain Younghusband had come through and told me that I must keep open a road for the mails through to Kashgar and have no dealings with the Russians.

At the Durbar he read out a speech to the effect that the Mirship had been conferred on me and I was led up to his dais between two officers where a khalat of Khimkawb worth about a thousand rupees was put upon my shoulders. A Khatli pony was also given to me with a magnificent golden saddle cloth upon it, which cloth is still in my possession today.

During that year small-pox broke out in Hunza and Wazir Humayan Beg was forced hurriedly to return to his home before the Jalsa was finished as he had information that his wife was suffering from the disease. Later on in the same year Major Stewart developed it and a doctor had to be sent for from Gilgit.

Colonel Durand accompanied me back to Hunza and we found on arrival that the Fort had been evacuated though it was in too bad a state of repair for me to go

and live there then. All the people of Hunza were summoned to appear before the Fort and Colonel Durand read out a speech in which he said that their past transgressions had been forgiven but if, in the future, they again behaved as they had recently done they would be very severely punished.

After a five days stay in Hunza he proceeded to Nagir where Zafar Khan was then Mir, after which he returned to Gilgit whence he went on leave the following spring and was succeeded by Colonel Robertson.

Four months later Jangdarin and Yangchidarin, two Chinese officials, came by invitation to Gilgit where they stayed for a month. On their way back to Kashgar they were accompanied as far as Baltit by Major Robertson who, now that the Sanad had arrived, was visiting Baltit officially to install me on my throne. I made arrangements for the P.A. and his party at Karimabad and also invited them to dinner.

A great Durbar, that lasted for two days, was held at which the two Chinese officials were present. Major Robertson had asked me which of the two Chinese officials was the senior and I had told him that although Yangchidarin was senior in rank he was so brainless that he had little influence, with the consequence that he was given a place below Jangdarin. During the Durbar the Sanad was read out and Major Robertson led me from

the chair on which I was sitting and placed me upon the throne. A choga was placed on my shoulders, guns were fired by both sides and I was congratulated by everyone present on being at last installed as Mir of Hunza. The Chinese who were there had desired to give me presents which they had brought with them for that purpose, but I was advised not to accept them and when, during the Durbar, they expressed a wish to give them to me they were not allowed to do so. The following day they returned to Kasgar but before they went off I told them that the question of the annual tribute that was formerly paid in gold, would have to be referred to the British Government after which I would let them know what had been decided.

These Chinese officials were very much displeased at the treatment they had received and complained to the Daotai that they had been insulted by my not having paid a visit of ceremony to them; that they had been disgraced as Jangdarin was given a higher place in Durbar than Yangchidarin, though I knew the latter was senior and that it was evident that Hunza had been conquered by the British and was under their sway. They also beat Darwesh, a Vakil I sent with them.

Two years later Colonel Bruce came to Gilgit as temporary British Agent and he told me that the

Government had decided that I might still pay my annual tribute to China. To this, however, I demurred as I pointed out to him that having relations with both sides was like sitting between two stools. He, however, retorted that if this was the case and one stool broke there was always the other to sit on and that no suspicion would attach to me as long as there were friendly relations between the British Government and the Emperor of China. He did make one stipulation, though, and that was that I should let the Political Agent in Gilgit see the letter that accompanied the gold, before it was despatched.

Later on Major Stewart was transferred and Captain Younghusband, who built a Fort at Aliabad and a house at Baltit, succeeded him.

CHAPTER V

Six months after I had received my Sanad, news came via the Chilingi that there was trouble in Chitral. The Mehtar, Amanulmulk, had been ill for some time and his son Afzalal Mulk had gradually obtained control of affairs and on his death succeeded him. Nizamul Mulk, the ruler of Yasin, fled to Gilgit in terror of his life and two months later Sher Afzal marched from Badakshan with a small force, overthrew Afzalul Mulk - whom he put to death - and reigned in his stead. His rule was short-lived, however, as Civil Levis under Humayan Beg from Hunza, and Zowara from Nagir, joined up with the Punialis and marched into Chitral with Nizamul Mulk. A short fight took place at Darasan, Sher Afzal fled and Nizamul Mulk ascended the throne.

Soon after this Captain Younghusband was transferred to Chitral and Captain Gordon took his place in Hunza. The Fort at Aliabad was completed and the troops were moved there from Karimabad. After Captain Gordon came Captain Napier, who was delicate and unable to go about much and was very soon replaced by Captain Port who was also quickly relieved by Captain Guff (Gough). He remained for a year and was succeeded by

Captain Miles. At this time - 1895 - Major Robertson was P.A. in Gilgit, Captain Dew A.P.A. Chilas and Captain Gordon A.P.A. Chitral.

It was during this year that Nizamul Mulk was murdered by Amirul Mulk, Mastuj Fort was besieged by Sher Afzul and Umra Khan, British Officers and Indian troops had been killed at Darasan and Koghoosi and things looked very serious throughout Chitral.

Major Robertson, therefore, set out with a force from Gilgit, which had with it fifty levies each from Hunza and Nagir, to help the Chitral garrison, leaving Major Stewart in charge of things in the Agency. When he got there he realised that things were very much more serious than he had formerly thought and sent back to Gilgit to see if reinforcements could be raised from Hunza and Nagir as, at that time, no troops could come from India as the passes were blocked with snow.

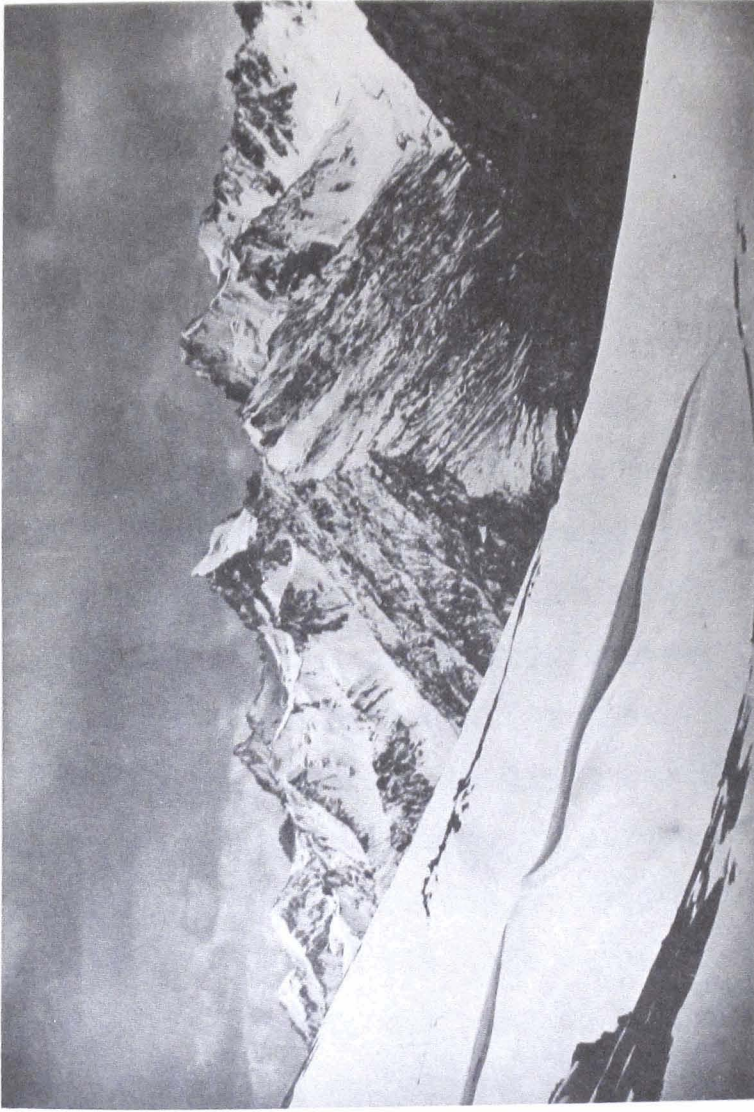
Major Stewart wrote to us and asked us what we could do and I had a conference with Raja Sikander Khan of Nagir and suggested to him that now was the time to show our loyalty and gratitude to the British Government for returning our kingdoms to us, by enlisting one man per house and sending this force to the help of the Sirkar. As he agreed to this I was able to go to Captain Miles on the following day and tell him that we could raise a force of three thousand men and five

hundred coolies between Hunza and Nagir. He hastily replied that so many men were not required and, as rations were short, suggested that only picked men should be sent. However when I replied that we would provide our own rations and the coolies to carry them, he gave in and we were able to start for Gilgit on the day after he left. At Chalt we counted our force and found that it numbered five thousand.

When we reached Nomal we found Captain Miles' Munshi Maulvi Sher Moh'd awaiting us with the news that the Government was very much pleased with our loyalty in providing so vast an army and that different roles would be allotted to it as soon as we reached Gilgit. It seemed improbable that we would be able to get enough firewood after we had left Nomal so we collected it there, cooked out fifteen days rations and were ready to leave at once for whatever destination might be decided for us.

On the following day we left for Gilgit and were met at the bridge by Captain Miles, who had come out to greet us. With so many men it was difficult to move quickly and it took us five hours to get across the rope bridge and reach the Jawahar Singh Bagh where the whole force was collected.

Tents were sent for us at the Political Agents orders and Mir Sikandar Khan and I shared one of them while the rest were issued to as many Mottibars as



Looking back into India from the summit of
the Killik Pass.

possible.

Soon after our arrival there Mushi Sner Mon'd came to us and told us that the Political Agent with his staff would come to inspect our men at four thirty that afternoon and bade us have everything ready at that hour.

Major Stewart, Captain Dew and a Colonel Kelly, who had come with a mixed force from the Chilas side, arrived at that hour, and were delighted with what they saw. They asked how many coolies we had with us and I told them that at the moment there were five hundred but that another hundred could be raised if they were required. This pleased Major Stewart who told me that we had amply repaid the rewards that the Government had showered upon us with this practical demonstration of help and that he would telegraph to the Government of India telling them of our loyalty. He went on to say that he regretted that there was no wood for our men, but I was able to assure him that we did not require any as we had cooked all our rations for the next fifteen days at Nomal and had placed them in a godown, which he then proceeded to inspect.

We were sent for on the following day and Major Stewart told us that he wanted fifty to seventy coolies each from Hunza and Nagir to carry rations up

to Gupis where they were running short; he required a hundred and twenty fighting men to go with Colonel Kelly to Gupis, where they would be armed with sniders, two hundred men, to whom sniders from Gilgit would be issued, to hold the Kargah and me and Sikandar Khan to remain in Gilgit with the remainder to see that no trouble arose there.

Accordingly the various parties set out on the following day, Mon'd Nafis Khan and Zarparast from Hunza and Khisro Khan and Sultan Ali from Nazir going with Colonel Kelly's party with five hundred coolies carrying a maund each.

Wazir Humayan Beg was ordered to go ahead and assist the force on their way to Mastuj. Up to Langar there was little trouble but from there on a great deal of snow was met with on the Shandur Pass, the mules were unable to haul up the guns which had to be manhandled across by Hunza Coolies. Owing to the difficulty of the road Colonel Kelly took only men from Hunza, Nagir and Punial with him.

It was found that the men of Laspur had also risen and the passage through that place was held at Chakawat by Sher Afzal. The Hunza coolies succeeded in getting the guns up on to the neights above that place and after some artillery fire the Hunza force was able to drive Sher Afzal out and thus open the way to Mastuj which was then taken without much difficulty.

News was shortly afterwards received that a force was approaching Chitral from Malakand so Colonel Kelly marched on thither and arrived there simultaneously with the other force. This finished off the rebels who fled. Amirul Mulk was captured and taken away into India, Shujaul Mulk - then a boy of seven - was placed upon the throne and the whole force marched back to Gilgit.

Colonel Robertson also returned and told me that the Government were extremely pleased with all that we had done and had sent him a telegram to that effect. He presented me with this wire and I have it with me to this day.

As a result of this the levies who had taken part in the operations were given full pay and a reward, the Wazirs were given a medal and a Winchester Rifle each and we Mirs were presented, at the next Durbar, with fifteen hundred rupees each, a medal and a sword of honour. I was also presented with a double-barreled shot gun.

Shortly after this Colonel Robertson went on leave and was succeeded as P.A. by Major Stewart, who had been acting for him while he was away in Chitral and, in the course of a few years, the Political Officer in Hunza and the Munshi there were withdrawn.

CHAPTER VI

Not long before the events recorded in the last chapter took place, when Captain Gordon was still A.P.A. Hunza, Lord Curzon (then The Hon. George Curzon) paid us a visit accompanied by Colonel Chamberlain and Chaman Lal, Commander of the Jammu and Kashmir State Forces.

Captain Gordon and I went to Garilt to meet him and conducted him from there to Karimabad where a camp had been prepared for him, as in those days there was no bungalow where guests could stay. Lord Curzon told me - through Colonel Chamberlain, as he himself could not speak any Urdu - that he wished to go to Sarikul over the Mingtaka Pass and from there to Chitral, and he asked me what the road was like. He was most distressed when I told him that the road through Ghujal was very bad indeed and there were only a few places where it was possible to ride, as, owing to his bad leg, walking gave him a great deal of pain. I told him, however, that I had two yaks that had been broken in for riding and that they could take him a great part of the way.

I took them down to see the fort which they admired very much. Colonel Chamberlain jokingly asked

me if it was the "Diwankhana".and I replied in the same vein that it was and, though unfit for Europeans to live in, was quite good enough for those whom the Sirkar had honoured with their favour.

The following day Colonel Chamberlain returned to Gilgit, for he had come there to inspect the Kashmir State Forces and I and Lord Curson set off in the opposite direction towards the Pamirs.

It was in the middle of August and the streams were in flood, and though sometimes we were able to ride on our Yaks, at others were were forced to walk, for in those days the road was very different from what it is now. The first day we reached Atabad and from there proceeded to Nazimabad with great difficulty as the river was high and the ford difficult. From there without much difficulty to Gilmit, which we reached on the third day; Gilmit to Passu; Passu to Gircha riding over the wide Batora glacier on our Yaks. From here we had to cross the Sust Pass as the river was in flood and finally reached the Khunjerab River which was roaring down.

Knowing that trouble was to be expected on the road, I had with me twenty stalwart youths from Hunza and when I saw the state of the Khunjerab sent one, Nazar Ali, on his mare to see if he could find a ford. Anxiously we watched as he forced the mare into the

stream; deeper and deeper they went until suddenly the mare lost her footing and they both began swirling downstream. Sometimes the man was on top, sometimes the mare, and, after one of the occasions when the man was down he rose again with a bleeding gash on his forehead and we thought that he was done for. However, eventually they reached the far bank, but that method of crossing was one that we were none of us eager to take. We had, however, to go on so Captain Gordon and Humayan Beg each with three strong men who could swim, ventured into the torrent and succeeded in reaching the far bank without much difficulty. Lord Curzon and I remained and he told me that he could not swim. I therefore told off ten strong men for each side of his horse - I had given him my big Badakshani for the crossing - and told him to shut his eyes and trust to the horse; this he did and got across without much difficulty. The servants were sent across in the same way - I coming last of all - and the luggage was sent round by another route and was taken over the Khudabad Jnula. Thus we reached Misgar and from there we had no trouble on the way except that Lord Curzon suffered a certain amount of pain from his bad leg which had got wet in the crossing.

That night at Murkushi Lord Curzon gave us a great feast at which Captain Gordon acted as

interpreter as 'Khaili Khoob', the Persian for 'very good' was all Lord Curzon could say. He told us while we were dining that he was going to return to India in three years as Viceroy to the Queen and asked us to stay with him when he did. We both accepted although I did not think that after three years and among so many strangers that he would remember us, although Captain Gordon thought that as he had asked us he would certainly keep his promise.

From Murkushi we climbed up the lower slopes of the Killik Pass to Shirin Maidan whence I sent a messenger to Masim Beg to come from Tagdumbash to the summit of the Pass to meet Lord Curzon, as I had told him on his asking me, that a representative from the Pamirs would meet him there.

The following day we reached the summit, which was free from snow, and I said goodbye to Lord Curzon and saw him safely into the hands of Masim Beg who received a hundred rupees for his trouble.

The Chinese authorities had refused permission for Lord Curzon to go to Tashkurgan so he went through Dafdar and Sarhad Wakhan to Chitral and so back to India. When he was with us he told us that he hoped to be able to visit Kabul, but I do not know whether he did or not.

After saying goodbye Captain Gordon and I returned to Hunza. Our troubles were not yet over,

however, as we tried to ford the river between Misgar and Gircha where there is now a cantelever bridge. Here the river runs between steep cliffs and the water is deep and fast. We had camels with us and so sent on one of them with a few of the Hunza youths to see if the ford was safe. They crossed the first part without much difficulty but when they got to the second part where the water was deeper the camel was swept away and eventually stranded on a small island some way downstream. It lay there as though dead and Captain Gúrdon told me how sorry he was to be the cause of the death of one of my animals. I reassured him by saying that it had to die some time and would make a very palatable meal for the men with us. After laying there for some time, it got to its feet again and appeared to be none too worse for its accident.

After that we had no more trouble and came to Gilmit in due course where Captain Gurdon made a halt of a week to shoot duck while I went on to Baltit. Captain Gurdon gave me dinner at Gulmit and during the course of the meal we speculated as to whether Lord Curzon would remember his invitation to us to go and stay with him in India. Captain Gurdon thought that as he had definitely asked us he would certainly keep his promise; I thought that when he came out again as Viceroy and was very busy with his work and with new friends that it was more probable

that he would forget all about it.

Captain Gurdon was transferred as A.P.A. Chitral after a year and two years later Lord Curzon returned to India as Viceroy.

A year after his arrival an invitation came for me, Wazir Humayan Beg, Mir Sikandar Khan, Raja Akbar Khan, M.J. Shah Abdur Rahman and Shujaul Mulk of Chitral to pay him a visit in Calcutta. Neither the Resident nor the Maharaja of Kashmir were in Srinagar when we got there as the Durbar had moved to Jammu, but we were met there by Captain Dew who took us as far as Rawal Pindi where we were joined by Captain Gurdon who had also received an invitation, and by Colonel MacMahon who was P.A. Malakand.

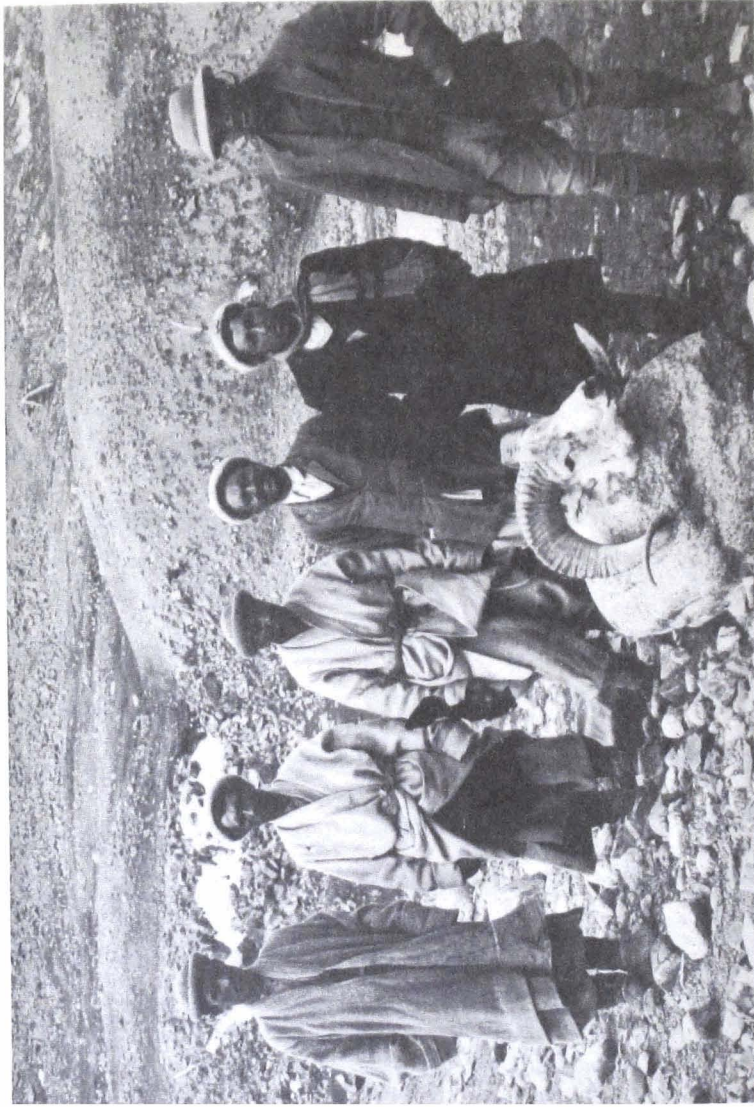
While we were in Rawal Pindi we were taken to see a parade of Cavalry and Infantry. This was our first view of regular troops and we were very much impressed by them.

I had obtained permission from the Resident to take with me Munshi Ahmad Din to help us on our way and the Mehtar of Chitral had with him Munshi Abdul Hakim. When we got to Lahore the latter made excellent arrangements for housing and feeding the Mehtar and no arrangements at all for us. This annoyed me so much that I sent Wazir Humayan Beg to Captain Gurdon telling him what had happened and he had the Mehtar - who was then a mere child - removed from the house that had been allotted to him and put us there in his place. From Lahore we went to Amritsar

where we were taken to see the Durbar Sahib which is the chief place of worship for the Sikhs.

Before visiting it Captain Gurdon told us that we were to remove our shoes before entering and on no account to spit in the holy tank or laugh at anything we saw there. We were garlanded when we entered the temple but the smell from the flowers caused Wazir Humayan Beg, who was suffering from a cold, to cough and spit, with the result that he was seized by the Sikhs who were showing us round. Captain Gurdon explained to them, however, that it was a cold that caused him to behave like this and that no disrespect was meant, whereupon they let him go. When we came out of the temple there was a procession of Sikhs outside who were singing and carrying Yak tails in their hands. This proved too much for the party and although Captain Gurdon and I remained solemn the rest of the party could not refrain from laughing at the sight.

From Amritsar we went to Ambala where we were lodged in Cantonments as there was an epidemic in the bazaar. While we were there we saw a musketry display, a boat race and some big game shooting. We were mounted on elephants for this, the one I was on having a Takht saddle while our servants were on packs, each one large enough to take twenty men. It was while we were in Ambala that the Mentar of Chitral came to me and said that he wished to



A good Ovis Poli head; Jamal Khan, the Mir's
grandson second from the right.

apologise to me for the behaviour of his men at Lahore as we were old family friends and he did not want to lose a friendship that had started so long ago.

From Ambala we went to Agra and thence to Calcutta, where we were housed in a magnificent mansion.

Two days after our arrival we were sent for by the Viceroy who asked after our health and whether we had had any difficulty on the road. As it was 'Durbari-Khas' we did not remain long and after presenting the gifts we had brought, withdrew.

Three days later I and Wazir Humayan Beg were given an interview at which Captain Gurdon acted as interpreter. Lord Curzon started by saying that he could never forget the help I had given him when he passed through Hunza and asked me if I remembered his invitation at Murkushi and my reply to the effect that being a Lord he would probably forget. I told him that I remembered it all perfectly and was very much surprised that he had not forgotten. He then enquired about the relations of Hunza with China and told me that I ought to see as much of the manufactories and other sights of Calcutta as I could and that every assistance would be put at my disposal. All the other Rajas were also given interviews in accordance with their rank.

We were in Calcutta during Christmas week and saw races and all sorts of other shows. We also visited

the Christian cemetery and saw the Nawab of Haiderabad riding in a phaeton as cars had not been invented in those days.

For three weeks we remained in Calcutta and were taken to see so many things that we had no time to make any of the purchases for which we had brought money with us. In order to get some time to ourselves I had to pretend to be indisposed and during the two days on which I said I was too ill to go out with the guide that had been provided, I was able to do some shopping. Once we were taken on to a ship which set sail at eight one morning and did not return until the following evening. While we were on board we saw some shooting practise and all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves except Raja Bahadur Khan of Astor who could not sleep as he feared alligators might come up out of the water and devour him. On our return we were taken to the races to see the Viceroy's Cup and while we were there Lord Curzon asked me what I thought was the best thing in India. I told him that I liked everything, but best of all the Cavalry parade we had seen in Rawal Pindi, after that the firing of the big guns on the ship and then the ship. I said that I preferred Punjabis to all the races I had seen and thought the valley of Kashmir the most beautiful country although the men that lived there were worse than any others. I added that although the Hindustanis were

good people they had little blood in them and that the Bengalis were the ugliest of the lot: That India without the British there, would be like the sky without stars. At this the Viceroy was much amused and nodded towards a Bengali who, practically naked, was then passing by.

The Viceroy gave us all nanasome presents and sent us back via Gwalior whose Ruler was most gracious and hospitable to us.

While we were in Gwalior the Ruler sent us out snooting with his secretary, providing us with ponies and rifles. The luck, however, was not with us and I succeeded in getting a female antelope only, while the Raja's secretary shot a kid. During the shoot M. J. Abdur Rahman's horse got out of control and it was with the utmost difficulty that we were able to get him safely back to camp.

That evening we went to a circus where they started joking against me for shooting a female. I, however, quickly retorted that the Maharaja's secretary had shot a female kid and remarked that in a city of the blind one should behave as though one were blind and that in a city of the lame one should pretend to be lame. This retort being to the point the joke was dropped and Captain Gordon congratulated me on my ready wit. A parade of the State Forces, which the Maharaja himself commanded

and a visit to the fort, which seemed to be as old and well built as my Baltit fort, terminated our stay and we returned to Rawal Pindi .

From there it was arranged that we should travel back to our homes by Chitral. We stopped a night in Peshawar where there were some more entertainments and went from there to Malakand after which we had to travel through snow. At Dargai we were again entertained and were escorted thence to Chakdara from which place the escort returned.

On arrival at Dir, where Captain Gurdon rejoined us, the Raja Moh'd Sherrif Khan showed us no courtesy which so annoyed Captain Gurdon that he refused to go and see him and left the following morning without having paid him a visit at all. However, the Arbaba showed us great respect and provided us with ponies for the journey. Soon, however, the snow became too deep for the ponies to travel with us and we had to cross the pass on foot. The Mehtar of Chitral who got upon the back of one of his servants and was carried across, wanted me to do the same but as Raja Akbar Khan, who was extremely fat, was with me I refused as all my men were needed to haul him along. At the top of the pass I left him and went on ahead to where Captain Gurdon and another officer had tea prepared for us, and the Mehtar of Chitral hurried on ahead so that he could receive us when we arrived.

We travelled on slowly, shooting by the road, until we approached Chitral where we were met by the Mehtar and his son, Niyat Shah.

The Mehtar told me that he had come out to greet me only and wanted me to ride on ahead with him and leave the rest of the party behind. I pointed out to him, however, that such conduct on his part would be inexcusable as, although he might consider me his chief guest, the others were nevertheless guests as well and he must show them equal hospitality.

Guns were all ready on the fort to fire a salute, but as it was snowing hard the powder got wet and this had to be abandoned.

'Pa Andaz' was spread for a hundred paces and the Mehtar himself got up to receive me and conducted me to a room inside the fort where he saw me settled and then excused himself as he said that, although he had made special arrangements for me as the chief guest, he must go and see that formal arrangements had been made for the others. The other Rajas were granted an interview on the following morning and I was invited to his 'dewan Khas' in the evening where we had a long conversation.

Major Manners-Smith, who was then P.A. Gilgit, had arranged that the presents we asked to be sent to Chitral should arrive in time and so we were able to make a suitable return for the gifts that the Mehtar gave us

when we left. The Mehtar gave me a horse and a hawk, to Sikandar Khan, a horse and to the other Rajas, Khilats.

At that time the territory administered by the Mehtar extended as far as Brenis, after which we were in British territory although it was entrusted to Raja Badhadur Khan. All arrangements for our journey were made without any difficulty, though Sikandar Khan, in spite of my advice drank some of the water at Awi, which Major Manners-Smith had warned me against, and got a fever which made him very weak by the time we reached Gupis. Here I, too, became unwell but recovered sufficiently to go on until we got to Sher Killa where the Raja of Punial, Moh'd Akbar Khan, wanted us to stay. Here again I began to feel ill so pressed on to Gilgit where I was treated by Doctor Roberts and after a few days had quite recovered.

Major Manners-Smith informed me when I arrived that Moh'd Nafis had been giving trouble in my absence. Some time before I had interned him in the Shingshal as I was afraid that he might go over the border and intrigue with Safdar Ali, but a year before my journey to India I had let him return to the Jagir my father had given him at Khudabad as he promised to be loyal to me. Apparently while I was away he had come into Gilgit and had refused to return to Hunza; consequently Major Manners-Smith had had him tied in a 'palki' and carried back by Hunza men.

This did not worry me, however, and I told

Major Manners-Smith that he could live on the jagir my father had given him and I would not interfere with him in any way.

A year or two later Lord Curzon held a Durbar in Delhi and invited me to it , Sikandar Khan of Nagir, Raja Alidad from Gilgit, Raja Hassan Khan Jagirdir from Astor, Sifat Bahadur from Punial, Shahidul Ajam from Chilas, and a cousin of Pukhtun Wali from Tangir. Munshi Fida Ali Khan accompanied us from Gilgit.

We were attached to the Maharaja of Kashmir's camp and took some polo players and bandsmen with us who were much appreciated by the crowd who had not seen that sort of entertainment before. We were drawn to play against the Manipur polo team, who played in bare feet, but were frightened at our prowess and withdrew.

The Durbar was a wonderful sight. People had come from all over India to be present there and the crowds were so immense and made up of such diverse races that it was a sight that I shall never forget. The Durbar, which was held in a vast horse-shoe shaped enclosure, was opened by the British troops singing the National Anthem the men in the massed bands being dressed in the old uniforms; after this the Ruling chiefs of India; starting with Haiderabad, Mysore and Baroda went up to where Lord Curzon and the Duke of Connaught were sitting in the middle and presented their 'nazars' all the Rulers followed

and in due course I, Sikander Khan of Nagir, The Mehtar of Chitral, Moh'd Sherrif Khan of Dir and the Raja of Nawa Nagar presented ours which were touched and remitted. The Begum Sahiba of Bhopal was also present.

During the Durbar I was told that His Highness The Agha Khan was there and remained behind to speak to him. He was very friendly with me and asked me to go round and see him on the following day. However, when the time came I received a letter from him saying that he was too busy to see me and asking me to go another time, saying that he would try and pay me a visit during the course of the day. I had my camp specially decorated for his visit, but, unfortunately, he was unable to come and see it.

At that time Shahzada Les, the Maulai Pir, arrived in Delhi with the tribute he had collected from the men of Hunza Yasin and Punial and we went to the Agha Khan's camp to present it to him in person. He sent a message to say that he was busy and telling us to send the money and to await his arrival in Bombay.

On the following day I and Sikandar Khan went round to try and see him again, this time we were admitted into his presence. There was a controversy in that year between Maulais and Shias and he asked me in excellent Persian what it was all about. I told him that we Maulais refused to eat meat that had been killed by a Shia and



The pinnacled Karakoram; view from Passu.

that they refused to eat it if it had been killed by a Maulai. My illustrious Master said that we should read the Koran where it was laid down that any Mussulman should eat the meat that had been slaughtered by any other.

He regretted that he could not attend a conference that was then being held about the subject as he had to accompany Lord Curzon to Calcutta. He gave me a photograph of himself and permitted me to kiss his hand, after which we were shown out.

During the Durbar week a court was held in the Diwana-Am and the Nawab of Dir and the Mehtar of Chitral were invested with the C.I.E. I was present at the investiture, after which we all had tea, and I was introduced by Captain Dew to Amir Ali Khan, son of Amir Sher Ali Khan. A Major Turtle also came up to me and asked me if I remembered him. I did not, but he told me that he had been with Colonel Lockhart when he first came up to Gilgit.

Lord Curzon requested me to give a display of Popinjay and Archery which we did one afternoon. It had never been seen before and the crowd was very enthusiastic about it.

After a week Lord Curzon and the Duke of Connaught left for Calcutta and all the chiefs and notables went to the Delhi station to see them off. While they were going

the round of the Chiefs saying goodbye, Lord Curzon caught sight of me standing behind the Maharaja of Kashmir and came up saying that I was an old friend and that he would say his last goodbye to me. The Foreign Secretary, who spoke fluent Persian was with him and he said to me that Lord Curzon had told him that he had met me twice and would never forget all the assistance I had given him when he was on his trip to the Pamirs.

After the train had left all the Rajas, except the Nawab of Haiderabad, came up to me to see who it was that had been singled out by the Viceroy. I saw that they had no idea as to where Hunza was and thought that I would somewhat exaggerate my importance. They asked me where my kingdom was and I replied that it touched on the borders of China; they enquired about my revenue and I answered that I really did not know what it was as I had clerks who collected it and did that sort of thing for me. They were much impressed!

After that we returned to our homes via Malakand and Chitral.

Soon after we had arrived home from Lord Curzon's Durbar, Lord Kitchener, who was then Commander-in-Chief, proposed visiting the Killik and Mingtaka passes.

Captain Smith, who was A.P.A. Chilas at the time, had been sent on ahead to see what the road was like and reported that it was in a very bad condition when he met

me at the Garilt bridge where I was awaiting the Commander-in-Chief. He then went on to Askurdass where the Mir of Nagir had gone to meet Lord Kitchener.

From there Sikandar Khan was sent back as the Commander-in-Chief said that it was not his custom to give more trouble to people than was necessary, while he came on with Captain Smith and M. Amir Ali Khan, the Native Assistant, to Baltit.

In those days there was no suitable bungalow at my capital and the Commander-in-Chief lodged in a building called "Low Nisgan."

I was invited to dine with him on the night he arrived and, as he wished to discuss his plans with me, he suggested that I should also come up and have tea with him so that we could talk undisturbed. Quoting the proverb that what one sees is often different from what one hears he told me that it was his intention to travel right up to the border where it had been reported to him that not even drinking water was available. He intended, he said, seeing the walls of the garden to which India has been compared instead of merely travelling through that garden as most of his predecessors had been content to do, so that he could make certain that no thorns in the protecting fence were missing where outsiders could enter to steal the fruit. He said that if possible he would like to visit Kuktruk, Tagharmansui and Paik, which are

beyond the Frontier, but that as he had no permission to do this it would have to be arranged quietly.

I told him that I could take him round to all these places in one day and get him back again to Markushi but he did not want me to go with him as he said that if I did the Chinese and Russian Government would say that he always went about with a string of Rajas in his train.

It was finally decided that he, Colonel Hamilton and M. Amir Ali should go accompanied by Wazir Humayun Beg.

Before the party set off I sent on a hundred men to do what they could with the road and gave instructions to Nazar Ali who was accustomed to take the annual gold tribute to China, to go on ahead from Murkushi with some horsemen as though they were going through to Tashkurgan. On arrival at Lurgaz they were to seize and bind Moh'd Karawalchi so that he could not send news of the party to the Chinese authorities. This he did and, although they told Karawalchi that it was merely a British Officer on a shooting trip, he seemed very suspicious.

When all arrangements had been completed, Lord Kitchener and his party set out on their journey.

The first stage to Attabad was done almost entirely on foot and from there to Gulmit the lower road was impassable and a track over the mountains had

to be traversed. The Commander-in-Chief was, however, very active and seemed to get along almost as well as my own men, although by the time he reached Misgar and had crossed innumerable rope bridges, he was getting rather exhausted.

At Markushi the kit was collected and some of it was sent to Hak in case the party should need bedding there and early the following morning, mounted on Yaks and accompanied by seven picked horsemen, they set off for Paik by the Mingtaka Pass and returned safely over the Killik that evening.

I went as far as Attabad to meet them when they got back there and Lord Kitchener dismounted when he was about a hundred yards away from me and, when we met, repeated "alhamdulillah" (Praise be to God) several times. He also thanked me very warmly for all I had done and told me that he would recommend me to the Government of India.

At Baltit I gave a dinner which was, however, cooked by the Commander-in-Chief's servants with a tamasha to follow and on the next morning he left me as he had to go and see the Darkot Pass in Yasin.

When he had returned to India he sent me a sword of honour, a chogha of Khimkhawb, a double barrelled gun and various other presents which must have cost him about a thousand rupees.

CHAPTER VII

In 1906, when Colonel Younghusband was Resident in Yashmir, the Viceroy, Lord Minto came on a visit.

All the Mirs and Rajas from the Gilgit Agency were invited by the Maharaja to go down to meet him and to bring with them their Mottibars, Bandsmen and Polo teams. It was at the beginning of September when we left Gilgit with Munshi Amir Ali Khan in charge of the party, and in due course we reached Bandipore whence we travelled into Srinagar in houseboats. While punting up the river the playing of our bands attracted large crowds which lined the banks and followed us as we went along to the houseboats where we were accommodated.

On the day after we reached Srinagar we went to pay our respects to the Maharaja at Sher Garhi and to the Resident, whom we had known in Gilgit, and a week later the Viceroy arrived.

The Resident went to Kohala to meet the Viceroy and we remained in Srinagar and formed a procession, headed by the Maharaja, to greet him at the Residency when he disembarked from the steam launch in which he had travelled for the last part of the journey. Lord Minto was accompanied by Lady Minto, her two daughters and Lady Fagon and they all used to make a great fuss

over my son Ghazan Khan to whom they presented flowers daily and said that he was so fair that he looked more like a European than a Hunza-ite.

In addition to the Chiefs from the Gilgit Agency, Rajas from Skardu, Khaplo, Shigar and the rest of Baltistan had also been invited.

On the third day after his arrival a big Durbar was held by the Maharaja Sahib at Sherghari which we all attended. His Highness proposed that the chiefs from Baltistan should sit above those from the Gilgit Agency, but to this Colonel Younghusband objected and consequently we were given precedence.

The Viceroy arrived in State accompanied by Sir Dean, the Foreign Secretary, and Colonel Dunlop Smith the Private Secretary and escorted by a mounted body guard. After the speech we were all presented to His Excellency starting with Raja Baldev Singh of Poonch, after whom I went up and then Sikandar Khan. We carried gold coins in our hands which were touched and remitted and in addition to this I presented as Nazar one Badakshani pony, a choga, three pairs of Chinese cups and some silk; Sikandar Khan did likewise and the remaining Rajas from the Agency gave a choga and a carpet each. Betal-leaf was also presented to the Viceroy but he did not chew it.

The next day we saw polo played on the ground in front of the Residency the ground having walls on each side so that Gilgit Polo could be played. The Maharaja tried to stage a game between us and the Baltistanis but, they were frightened of us and refused to play. During the display Sultan Mohyidin was hit on the head and stunned. He was taken to hospital where he did not recover consciousness until midnight.

That night there was a 'mulki' tomasha in the Residency Gardens. The Hunza and Nagir bands played and there was dancing, both by our people and the Ladakhis who danced on the points of two swords. The Maharaja was unable to be present and was represented by Raja Amar Singh, who could talk ^Eenglish and who invited us to go and see him in his palace on the following day.

On another day we accompanied the Viceroy to the Shalimar Bagh where we were delighted with the playing of the fountains, and on the next day we went to see Chashma-i-Shahi where we were entertained at tea by the Maharaja.

I visited my refugee uncle Raihan Ali Shah during my stay in Srinagar and presented him with an Arab pony I had bought from Delhi. His son Zulfikar, who was on very bad terms with him, asked me if I would take him back to Hunza with me: I consulted his father who said

that he knew the conditions prevailing in Hunza and thought that it would be dangerous to take him back as he was certain at sometime or another to intrigue against me. I also went to see Uzar Khan's wife who, as may be remembered, was my brother Safdar Ali's sister. She followed him down to Kashmir after he was exiled there in 1893.

I thoroughly enjoyed this visit to Srinagar and when it was time for us to go back was presented by the Resident with a pony that had been sent to him by a friend in China, and by the Maharaja with a handsome Khilat. We rather feared that we might have trouble on the Burzil Pass on the way back, but when we got there found that there was no snow at all upon it and so had a very pleasant return journey.

Major Bruce was then P.A. in Gilgit and had made all the necessary arrangements for transport and supplies. The Munshi Amir Ali, who had been with us, was greatly addicted to the bottle and drank so much wine during the trip that he fell ill soon after he got back to Gilgit and died shortly afterwards.

In 1911, when King George came out to India, we were again invited to attend the Delhi Durbar and left Gilgit towards the end of December. This time I took with me Shukrulla Beg the eldest son of Humayun Beg.

Sikandar Khan went from Nagir, Raja Ali Dad from Gilgit, Sifat Bahadur from Punial, Shah Sultan from Astor and Shahidul Ajam from Chilas. Abdur Rahman from Yasin had been deposed and so did not accompany us.

On arrival in Srinagar we were met by Major Oliver and remained there for twenty days. It had been hoped that we should be able to go down by the Banihal Pass but there was too much snow on the road and we had to go via Rawal Pindi whence we went straight to Lahore where we joined the Maharaja's camp. From there we proceeded to Delhi and after a week the King Emperor arrived .

All the Ruling Chiefs in India, in their best robes, went to the station to greet him. The King rode to his camp on a horse called Akbar preceded by the Nawab of Haiderabad and the Maharaja of Kashmir and surrounded by the other Chiefs. At the station were some motor cars belonging to some of the ruling families and as I had never seen one before I was much impressed.

The day before the Durbar the Viceroy came round and visited all the various camps of which that of the Maharaja was fourth on the list. We were introduced to the Viceroy who gave us Salaams on behalf of the King Emperor and talked with us for fifteen minutes. After this we were taken to the Durbar place - it was an immense Shamiana tent constructed to hold twelve thousand people and small gauge railway lines had been run to it from the various camps - and shown our places and told what we must do



The Batera Glacier.

We were advised to be in position some time before the Durbar began as there was sure to be a crowd there and it might take us longer than we thought to arrive at our places.

The Durbar started at 8.0 p.m. and at that hour the King Emperor, accompanied by the Queen, arrived on foot and mounted the roofed in Dais. All the chiefs, who were dressed in their wonderful robes and jewelled turbans stood up as he arrived.

The Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, first kissed the Royal hand and he was followed by the Nawab of Haiderabad and other chiefs in order of seniority. The Maharaja was fourth on the list and as he had consumed more than his usual quota of opium that day we were all very much afraid that he would not be able to go through the ceremony properly. However, when his turn came he got up and went to the dais with great dignity. On his return he asked us if he had done it all right and was very relieved when we told him that he had. We also went up and presented our Nazar which was touched and remitted. The ritual was that each chief had to bow three times in going up and three times on backing away and all with one exception performed this; the Gaekwar of Baroda did not.

Owing to the fusing of an electric wire the roof of the tent caught fire and there were signs of panic but, we were assured that the fire had been got under

control by the Military authorities and the fear was quickly allayed.

After the Durbar we went outside to look for the car that was to take us back to camp, but we could see no sign of it in the mob and so after shouting for it as loudly as we could, we decided to walk back to my camp which we reached, having been directed by various policemen, at six the following morning.

The Mehtar of Chitral arrived late at the Durbar and was not admitted.

While in Delhi I visited the Memorial that had been erected to the memory of Queen Victoria which stands in the Chandi Chawk. I found the cavalry drawn up there when I arrived as it formed part of the route that the King-Emperor was to take on his way to the station. I also visited all the camps of the ruling chiefs of India and thought that of them all the Maharaja of Kashmir's with its wonderfully carved screens, was the best. Mir Sikandar Khan did not go visiting with me as he preferred shopping.

One day there was a magnificent display of native sword dancing on the Jamna plain and during it Colonel Younghusband, Colonel MacMahon and Doctor Roberts with difficulty found me in the crowd as I was wearing a turban. They told me to stick to my Hunza hat so that they could easily pick me out.

On the 11th. January we left Delhi, via Ferozepore, for home and I hoped that we might be allowed to go back through Malakand and Chitral. The P.A., however, objected to this and so it was decided that we should go by the Zaujila and travel through Ladakh.

It was a very difficult journey in the depth of winter and for many stages we had to travel on foot. However, the Maharaja had provided us with sufficient food and money and had had all the State Bungalows prepared for our reception. The road up to Kargil was worse than the Gujhal road beyond Baltit and we had to walk most of the way. The Raja of Skardu came out a mile to meet us and begged us to go to his house. The guides with us however, told us that the Maharaja had made all arrangements in the State Rest House and it was there we stayed for the three days we halted. A Shia Raja had lent Sikander Khan a pony to ride on and Wazir Hashmatulla, Wazir-i-Wazarat sent a couple for me.

From Skardu we turned right-handed to Kowardoo; thence on foot to Shangooz; from the garden of Samad Khan to Khotanbar where there are hot springs and where we shot Markhor. From Khotanbar to Harangoshi - this part of the road was more difficult than the Shimshal - and thence through Chamugarh to Gilgit.

The whole journey from Surlbul, where Captain Oliver left us, until we reached Gilgit took us thirty days.

The Balti coolies we had with us were wonderful on the difficult roads, but the people there seemed very poor and oppressed.

CHAPTER VIII

Up to this time Civil and Fighting Levies had been raised in each ilaqa but there was no regular training for them. In the autumn of 1912 Major Macpherson P.A., who was on tour in Hunza broached a new prospect to me.

His idea was that the levies should be disbanded and in their place a Corps of Scouts should be enlisted who would go into Gilgit for a month every year to be properly trained so that, if occasion arose, there would be trained men to deal with any menace to the Agency. He

told me that so far he had told no one about this scheme and asked me to think it over and let him know on the following day whether I thought the idea a good one and whether the people of the country would be willing to enlist.

Having thought the matter over I went to see him at Aliabad the next morning and told him that I thought the plan was sound. I added that if the other Rajas, when they were asked, were not prepared to welcome the scheme I would give my sons as officers and those of Wazir Humayun Beg and would raise four companies of Scouts each eighty strong. Only one stipulation did I make and that was that if Russia or China attacked my country the Government would come to my assistance. I added that if the Scouts were to go to India for their training I thought that they, being men from a cold country, might find the heat very trying.

Major Macpherson noted all my points and said that he would put them up to the Government of India when he wrote to them about the proposed change in arrangements in Gilgit.

He then went to Nagir where he asked Mir Sikander Khan the same question. Sikander Khan played for delay saying that he did not know whether the idea would be acceptable to his people and immediately despatched a secret messenger to me to ask my advice.

I sent him back word that the scheme was a good one and was an excellent opportunity for the men of the country being trained in musketry and fighting, and so he told the P.A. that his men too agreed to the idea.

Major Macpherson saw me on his return journey and told me that he was going to put the whole matter up to the Government of India and hoped to get a reply about it by the time that Jalsa came round. He told me that the matter should still be kept confidential but that I might discuss it with Wazir Humayun Beg.

I asked him about the old levies and my personal bodyguard and he informed me that those who did not wish to enlist in the Scouts would be pensioned off, but that he feared that my bodyguard would be reduced from its number of twelve. To this I demurred and he promised me that he would do as much as he could for me.

The scheme was formally sanctioned after five months as follows:-

Two Companies should be raised from Hunza each consisting of eighty men who would receive twelve rupees a month while they were under training for one month of the year in Gilgit and one rupee a month when they were in their homes. In charge of these should be my eldest son Ghazan Khan through whom, if they had any grouse, the complaint must be made. He would have the rank of Subedar Major and would immediately be junior to the British Officers

in the corps. Only men of good family and character would be enlisted and if I wanted to discharge or enlist anyone I should put up my proposals to the Commandant of Scouts who would ask the P.A. about them. Major Macpherson and Major Bridges, the Military Assistant, were shortly coming to Hunza and when they arrived there they would enlist the necessary number of men for the Corps.

I collected all the youths of Hunza at Baltit and made the announcement, telling them that by the kindness of the Sirkar a corps of Scouts was going to be raised. They were without exception very keen on the idea and out of the three thousand that had collected I made a selection of about five hundred for the P.A. to choose from. All the Mottibars who had come in said that as I had offered my son they too were willing to offer theirs and that as one had to die once it was better to die fighting for the Sirkar and so add lustre of the name of Hunza, than to die in their houses.

The P.A. arrived at Aliabad on the following day and after our formal enquiries about each other's health told me that I should have the men ready for enlistment paraded before him at noon the next day. They came there, five hundred of the pick of Hunza's youths, in their clean clothes and with flowers in their caps. The officers were bewildered at the sight of so many fine men and hardly

knew how to start choosing them.

I first presented them with my eldest son Ghazan Khan as Subedar, Major; Wazir Humayun Beg then offered his eldest son Shukfulla Beg as Subedar of one Company and his nephew Mohibatulla Beg son of Moh'd Raza Beg as Subedar of the other. Moh'd Rafi and another man were appointed as Jemadars and then I left the officers to choose the hundred and sixty men that were necessary for the rank and file, telling them that I was leaving them in a flower garden to select the blossoms they required to make a bouquet.

The first few they chose were men of low caste, for they did not then realise that all the men of Hunza from whatever caste, take a pride in looking clean. These were rejected when I told them and others were taken on in their stead, until all vacancies were filled.

I had asked Major Macpherson if we might observe the old customs and he had agreed so the following ceremony took place, an old ritual that had always been gone through when the men of Hunza marched out to war.

Eight stanzas of an old, old song were sung, a male goat was slaughtered on the drum and the head carried round the circle formed by the newly enlisted men so that all could see the blood. My bodyguard and the locals there then fired a salute and the flag of Hunza and the Union Jack were waved over the heads of the men to revive



A high camp.

their martial ardour. Finally three ringing cheers were given and the Political Agent made a speech to the following effect.

"Up to this time there were levies who have done very good service for the State but you, oh Scouts now take their place and the honour of the Sirkar and the good name of your country are henceforward in your hands. If in the future you have any complaints to make, they should be made to the Subedar Major who will bring them to the notice of the Commandant of Scouts for his decisions. Do not think that because you now serve the Sirkar that you can behave with insolence to your Mir. It is in his hands as to whom is enlisted or discharged from the Scouts and to him you must now and always pay the same respect that you have in the past."

After making this speech the P.A. congratulated them all and left for Nagir to raise the Scouts there.

In Nagir things did not go so smoothly as they had in Hunza. Wazir Khuda Aman desired one of his sons to be made Subedar instead of Sultan Ali who had been proposed by the Mir. A great deal of argument took place and finally the question was left open and the P.A. asked me to meet him at Minnapin to discuss their respective rights. I told him that Sultan Ali's father had been governor at Chaprot and that he had done great service to the family of Sikander Khan. Accordingly he was appointed a Subedar,

Gauthar Aman was made another and the Mir's eldest son Moh'd Ali Khan taken on as Subedar Major.

None of the family of Tazir Khuda Aman were enlisted.

Quite soon after the Scouts were raised the Great War broke out and shortly after its commencement an express wire came from Simla to Major James, who was acting P.A. asking him to try and intercept two German Officers who had left China with the idea of entering Afghanistan and winning the Amir over to the side of the Central Powers. He told me to do what I could.

There were two ways along which these officers could come; either through Raskam and over the Aphrang or else by Iliksoo. I sent Faizoo a lambardar with twenty shimshalies to Raskam and Subedar Moh'd Raffi to the Killik to keep a look out on that route.

When Faizoo got to Raskam he found that the Germans had gone towards the Aphrang and following the track of their two ponies and one donkey, came upon them wandering aimlessly about as they had lost their way and did not know how to get to the Pass.

I had warned Faizoo that he must pretend to be friendly if he came across them so he offered to show them the way and led them back by a devious route to Raskam where they were arrested. Here they discovered their mistake from their maps, but it was then too late and in spite

of their protestations that they were Swiss, they were taken to Hunza. On the way there their effects were searched and a revolver was found in the possession of each of them. The senior officer was a Major and the other a Lieutenant. The former's toes got badly frost bitten going over the Pass and I had to send a doctor to Passu to attend to them.

On arrival at Baltit they were separated, the Major being put in the Karimabad garden while for the Lieutenant a tent was pitched down below my house. Major James and I first went to the senior of the two and asked him to give an account of himself, pointing out to him that his only hope of leniency lay in telling us the truth. He, however, stuck to the tale that he was a Swiss traveller who had lost his way coming over the mountains and had been captured and brought to Hunza. After leaving him Major James asked me what I considered we ought to do next and I suggested that perhaps the Lieutenant, being younger, would be less discreet. Accordingly we proceeded to the place where he was kept armed with a bottle of beer. This proved a most effective weapon with the younger man although the Major had refused it and he knocked off the top and drank the contents at one draught. He could speak a little Turki so I acted as interpreter and he admitted after some close questioning that they were German officers and were on their way to Afghanistan when they were captured.

The Major had left his wife in China and they had come by Kokand and Yarkand, taking unfrequented roads whenever possible so as to avoid observation and paying guides they found on their way large sums of money to remain silent. At Raskam, he said, they had been unable to obtain a guide to show them the way over the Aphrang and had, in consequence, gone astray.

After this we searched their kit and found a rifle, two revolvers some cartridges, about seven thousand gold Chinese coins and one German coin. This latter I took and showed to the Major who seemed very much ashamed that his young comrade had confessed.

On the following day they set out under Ghazan Khan's escort to Gilgit having been provided with new clothing and ponies by me. Before they left their photographs were taken and the Major thanked me warmly for the kindness I had shown to them saying that in spite of the fact of their capture they had travelled in the utmost comfort through my territory, and that although he had visited most countries in the world he had never met such fine men as those of Hunza who, he added "travel like mules over the hills and swim like fish in the water."

In reply I told him that had it not been for the influence of the benign British Government my men would probably have killed them and taken all their possessions !

Shortly after this the Government of India wanted another man arrested who was going to Afghanistan to try and stir up trouble. I therefore, sent a party of thirty scouts under Subedar Moh'd Raffi and Jemadar Yman Yar Beg to the top of the Killik to watch the road to Wakhijrool and try and intercept Raja Mohindra Partab. They built a small cupola near the summit in which they remained concealed during that day. After they had been there for some days I spoke to Major James on the telephone and suggested to him that as they could not do much good where they were, they should go on to Paik and keep a look out from there. He replied that he could give no orders on the subject as it was in Chinese territory, but that, if I would take the responsibility of answering any objections the Chinese authorities might make, I could send them there.

I told the party to go on to Paik, with two weeks rations from Gircha, and to tell the Chinese authorities, if they asked any questions that they were there to protect the mail. This they told to the Amban, who was satisfied with their explanation.

I also wrote to Sir James Macartney who was Consul-General at Kashgar and asked him if they could be supplied with rations from Tashkurgan, which was done. The post was found so useful that it remained there for the rest of the war and for a short time afterwards, the

men being relieved at certain intervals.

The Amban who was there then was a very good man and friendly to British interests; he was afterwards murdered by the Chinese.

CHAPTER IX

In 1931 I had to go down to Srinagar to see a dentist as I had latterly been having trouble with my teeth and thought that I would pay a visit to the Maharaja. as well.

We left Hunza in August and were met at Bandipore by a motor car and a lorry that had been sent there by His Highness whose guests we were to be at Chashma Shahi for ten days. Three days later the Mir of Nagir and the Raja of Punial arrived and a day or so after them came the Raja of Gilgit.

When we had all arrived we were summoned to attend

on the Maharaja and found when we got there that all his Ministers were collected. On his entrance we all stood up and salaamed and then resumed our seats.

I was first called up and His Highness asked me if I had had any trouble on the road and on my replying that I had none he said that he had a great admiration for my people and was delighted that we had come to see him after not visiting him for so many years.

I answered "That is all right, but why did you not ask us ? You sent for the Mehtar of Chitral and if you wanted us to come you should have asked us as we are your friends."

"I sent you letters" he retorted

"They were never received" I replied.

"Did I not send letters?" he asked, turning to Janak Singh.

"Yes, yes Maharaj "

"Perhaps they were eaten by rats in your office " I suggested "as they never reached me. If they had I would certainly have answered them."

His Highness then started asking everyone whether he hadn't written me letters and while they were still arguing I repeated that anyhow they had never arrived.

Finally the Maharaja said "perhaps it is the fault of the office and they got left there. Anyhow I had intended visiting Gilgit but at that time the Burzil was closed."

"If you had sent us an invitation" I replied "and the Burzil had been closed we could have come by Chitral as the choice of route was ours."

"I wanted to go to Gilgit to see the country."

"It had been your country for some time" I answered "and it is a good thing to see your people."

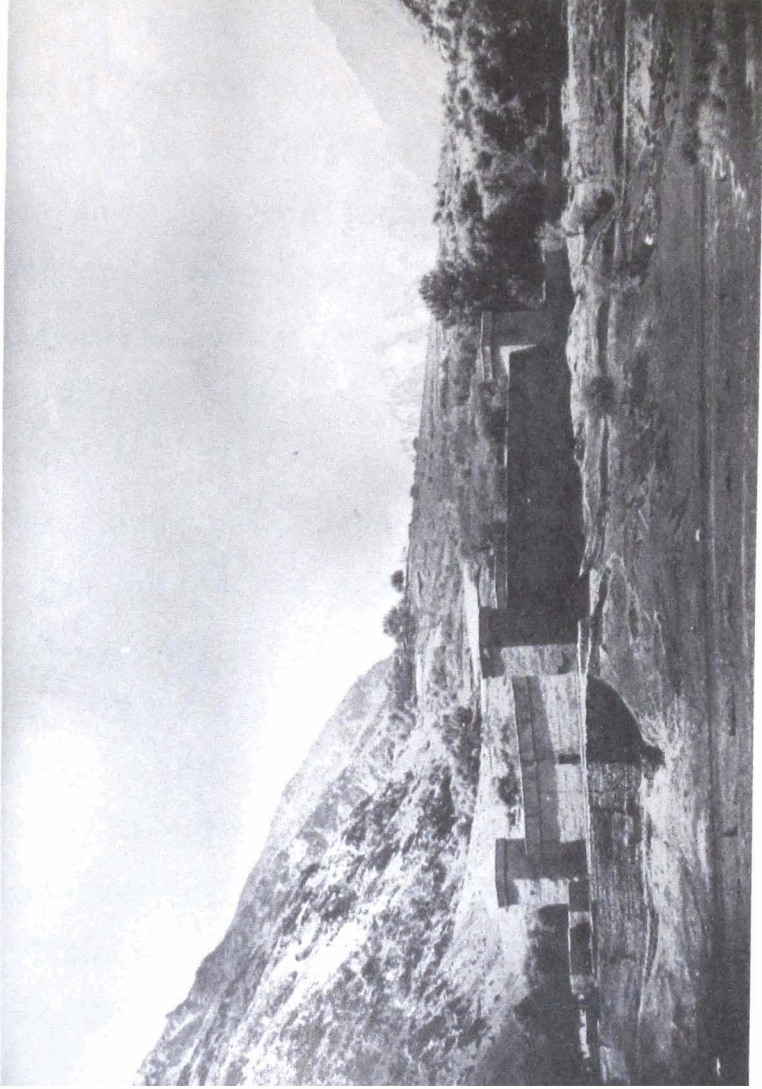
"It is very far and the road is not good."

"What are Princes" I retorted "if they do not go and see every part of their domain? The Commander-in-Chief came, Lord Curzon came and Lord Kitchener came. Of course motors cannot get there, but still there are horses."

His Highness then showed me his foot where he had broken his ankle skying in Gulmarg and said that he could not walk.

"There is no need to walk" I said. "You can ride the whole way and after all you go to England frequently and Gilgit is not as far as that."

We continued talking like this for an hour and finally he said that he would come but that I must be responsible that he got a markhor and an Ibex. I told him that I could not guarantee this as there were no good heads in Hunza proper but that, he should make the Wazarat officers responsible as there were several good heads round Astor. I could ensure his getting a Poli and a good Ibex if he went up to the Killik but when I informed him that this meant a ten days journey from Baltit, mostly



Mastuj Fort.

on foot, he said that it was too far and that he did not think that he could get beyond Hunza and Nagir. The Prime Minister agreed that it would be a good thing if he did come up to visit us.

He then asked me if we played polo and if so how and I replied that he had better ask Janak Singh who had been there. Janak Singh said that the polo was wonderful in Hunza and continued that in a competition the losing team were stripped and thrown into the village pond; he repeated many other things that His Highness found very amusing. He said that the country was very beautiful and the people were so friendly that they salaamed everyone. He then mentioned my two forts at Altit and Baltit and told His Highness that Baltis had made the latter.

"How did the Baltis come there?" inquired the Maharaja. I replied that five hundred Baltis had been sent into the country as a wedding gift when his daughter married Ayesha one of my ancestors, in the days when Abdar Khan was King of Baltistan. She thought that the fort at Altit and the polo ground there, which was formerly called Shah Shiwarran were far too small and so had them enlarged.

He then asked how many years we had been in Hunza and asked where we came from and I told him that about six hundred years ago we had come from Skardu to Gilgit and from there had settled in Hunza. He seemed x.

surprised when I told him that my forts were still standing.

After a certain amount of conversation with his ministers he turned to me and said that he would certainly come.

The presents we had brought for him, were displayed, mine and the Mir of Nagir's separately. My gifts comprised two ponies, vases, chogas, a small sword and some marble and His Highness seemed very pleased with them.

We then returned to Chashma Shahi and at five o'clock went to Mr. Rampal's house where we were to have tea. I was late getting there as I had had to have my teeth seen to before and soon after I arrived an A.D.C. came from the Maharaja asking me to go over there. Although I had not had my tea I thought it better to go and, telling the Mir of Nagir that I could not eat tea prepared by a Hindu, I accompanied the A.D.C. in a Rolls Royce to the tennis courts below the palace where His Highness was playing.

He soon finished his set and then came and sat down with me. The Effendi, Colonel Khusru Jung, Mr. Chopra and some others were also there.

I was sitting next to the Effendi to whom the Maharaja introduced me, telling me that he was the son of Ashim Khan whom I had met on my way to Calcutta when

I went to visit Lord Curzon there. His Highness asked me if I played tennis and I told him that I did not although I had seen the Sahibs playing in Gilgit. He said that he found it was excellent exercise. He then asked me if I still played polo and I said that I had given it up years before.

He then told me that he liked Mr. Todd, the Political Agent in Gilgit and also Colonel Ogilvie, the Resident but that, he did not like Major Loch. To this I said that all Sahibs were good but he shook his head and murmured that some were and some were not. He asked me if I would obey his orders if he ruled in my country so I retorted by asking him if he would like my orders in his: he said that I was far too sharp and asked me where my frontier was. I overheard him saying in English to his Prime Minister that I was very alert and clever. He then gave me a drink and said that he must go as he was dining at the Residency that night but that he expected to see me at polo on the following day.

Through some oversight he had omitted to ask the Mir of Nagir to the polo and when I told him, he said that it was then too late to do so. He asked me to play polo but I told him that I was too old.

On the following day Colonel Khusru Jung apologised to the Mir of Nagir for not asking him to polo and said that the Maharaja hoped that he could come

hat afternoon. He asked him before asking me and that satisfied him.

On another day the Effendi asked me to dinner. I took my band with me and he enjoyed it very much as he said that it reminded him of the old days in Kabul. He was very upset when I arrived as he had just opened a parcel that had come from the Maharaja and had found a live rat inside it. He told me that His Highness knew he was terrified of them and frequently sent them to him. I told him that the best thing to do was to retaliate by sending His Highness something that he was frightened of, but the Effendi told me that he was only afraid of snakes and that he, himself did not like them either.

Soon after dinner the telephone bell rang and His Highness asked the Effendi to take me up to the palace. We arrived there in a car and found the Maharaja with a few intimate friends whom he was entertaining with a dancing girl. After greeting us he handed me an immense whisky and soda. I asked him to excuse me, saying, that so big a drink was too much for a man of my years to deal with and eventually he poured me out another and smaller one. He asked me what I thought of the girl's singing and I said that I found it very pleasant. We remained there until half past one and it was after two o'clock in the morning, when I reached the Chashma Shahi. I told the Resident where I had been but not the others

as I felt that they might be jealous if they knew that I had been asked to the Palace when they had not .

On the following morning we received visits from Colonel Khusru Jung and the Prime Minister Krishen Kaul. They were very courteous to us and insisted that we should stay on as guests of the Maharaja for another five days. Janak Singh did not come and visit us.

During this time we met Mr. Latimer the new Resident and had dinner with him one night.

His Highness said that he must see some Gilgit polo and asked me to fix it up for him . It was very difficult as we had no decent ponies or bandsmen with us but I did what I could and eventually some men were found in the Regiment who could play the Saranai and they were hastily taught the polo tunes that are used up here.

As soon as it was known in Srinagar that Gilgit polo was to be played that afternoon a great crowd collected and the ground was surrounded by parked cars. Colonel Sutherland and His Highness were there and wanted to go nearer to see more of the game but I dissuaded them as it was too dangerous. Mahbub was ill at the time and so could not play but we were represented by Jamal Khan and Bappo. The former was able to catch the ball during the play and, amid great cheers from the crowd, succeeded in riding through the goal with it.

After this we moved to the Residency where we

stayed as Mr. Latimer's guests for ten days.

The Maharaja's brother-in-law came to us and said that the Prime Minister wanted me, Nagir and Punial to go to his house as there was some business he wanted to transact with us. When we got there the P.M. told me that he had arranged that Matandass was to be mine and that the Maharaja was giving us Jirgas of about Rs.1700/-, 1600/- and 900/- respectively in honour of our meeting. The other two were delighted at the idea but I pointed out to the Prime Minister that Kashmir was a long way from Gilgit and that it would be much more satisfactory for us if we could be given land nearer our homes. He said that he quite realised that but, as it was a frontier country, a great deal of correspondence would have to take place with the Government of India before we could be allowed to have land there and he thought that it would be impossible. I replied that I would think it over but still considered that it would be much more suitable if we could have it there. But he still said "impossible".

As soon as I could get away I went to the Residency and found that Mr. Todd was having a bath. However he dressed as quickly as he could and we discussed the matter and it was finally arranged that I should go and see Colonel Khusru Jung on the following

morning and try and get the Jagir altered to land in Gilgit.

Colonel Khusru Jung said that he would do what he could but did not feel very hopeful about it. He then told me that there would be a Durbar on the morrow when we could present our Nazrs to H.H. and receive the papers granting us our land. He went on to inform me of the procedure at a Durbar but I cut him short and said that I was well aware of the procedure as I had attended many in my time including that of the King Emperor.

I, Nagir, Punial, Astor and Gilgit attended the Durbar on the following day and Nagir and I presented our five pound Nazr and were given the papers relating to our gift of land amid the congratulations of all present. I however said that I would like to see the land that had been given to me before formally accepting it. Janak Singh asked me why and I told him that my people in Hunza would expect me to have seen what belonged to me. He still objected (for he knew that the land that had been allotted was worthless) but Colonel Khusru Jung came to my rescue and promised that a car should be placed at my disposal on the following morning.

No car arrived so I set out in one I hired at my own expense. We drove out to beyond Sumbul and then

I walked about three miles on foot. It was very hot and I asked the Tensildar, who was with me, for some water, but he said there was none. He then asked me for my papers and I told him that I had decided not to accept the land as it was worthless and asked him to show me other land in the neighbourhood which was better. This he did. I did not get back until eight at night.

On the following morning Nagir, Mahbub and Bappo came round and asked me what I thought of the land that had been given to me and I told them that I did not like it and intended returning it to the Maharaja. They said that they would do the same but the Raja of Puniyal seemed satisfied with the ground that had been apportioned to him and decided to keep it.

We went, accordingly, to Janak Singh's house. He asked me what we thought of the land and I told him that there was no water on it and that it was thoroughly bad. He seemed surprised. He asked me if I had signed the papers and I replied that I had not and requested him to thank the Maharaja very much indeed for his present which I begged leave to return to him. He was much upset by this and said that we could not possibly return the land as it had been given to us in the Durbar and it was against the custom of the country. To this I retorted that he must remember that we were strangers from a country



The 'Darband' on the Hunza River.

where other customs prevailed and after a great deal of talk during which he tried to persuade us to go and see Colonel Khusru Jung about it, we took our departure leaving the Jagir papers with him.

That evening Colonel Khusru Jung came round to see us and asked us what land we would like. H.H. had, apparantly, told Janak Singh that we were to have any place we wanted and we were to go round and fix it up with him ourselves next morning

When we went there Janak Singh said to us that we were hard men but I told him that I had merely been honest and said what I thought, and, that if he wanted to have friendly relations with our countries he should see that we were given good land.

I selected Pailipura for my site and the Mir of Nagir chose Zaribul, where there are many shiahs, for his. He then left for Bandipore leaving Mahbub to see the land. I remained for the night on mine, which is near Bandipore, and after a thorough inspection to see that everything was all right and a great deal of feasting and dancing, signed the papers which made me master of a block of land containing ninety-seven houses.

I appointed Zulfikar my cousin who had resided in Srinagar for many years, as overseer and then left for Baltit.

CHAPTER X

Since my appointment as Mir of Hunza I have wronged no one in my state. Several times during my rule the friends of Safdar Ali have tried to revolt against me but I have always treated them fairly and with justice.

The following places have been brought under cultivation by me:- Matamdass, Hassenabad, Khanabad, Atabad, Wazimabad (with great difficulty), Khairabad, Kirman Khel and Sapanj Bolokashing Baraan. At Resht there were four and now there are twenty, and, according to the census there has been an addition of two hundred and seventy houses in my thirty nine years.

Formerly there were Mehtari lands in each village and four men were responsible for their cultivation. This caused the people considerable hardship and many petitions were put up to my father and brother about it. I have given the land to the people at a fixed and equitable rent.

When I ascended to the throne I discussed matters with representatives of the people and reduced all the taxes. I remitted the tax of nine loads of manure in the spring and four in the autumn which the load carriers had formerly paid to the Mir and the tax

of three 'ghurbal' of grain which was paid from each holding: I reduced the contribution of four goats from each new colony that was founded, to three; the tax of fifteen cups of vegetable oil from each holding to one a year, the tax of twenty seers of grain for my ponies to five. Formerly rishka and bhoosa were recovered at the rate of two and three maunds respectively from each holding; now it has been reduced to ten seers of rishka and two maunds of bhoosa annually. From Gujhal to Chapursan two goats and twelve 'ghurbals' of wheat were presented annually by the Zemindars who had been given land by the Mir; I have halved this amount. Two maunds of wood daily used also to be supplied but I have now one only.

During my thirty-nine years as Mir there have been two murders only in my country and all the people have been happy and prosperous. The Government of India had never interfered with the internal administration of the country and as my people see more of the world they have added cleverness to their previous simplicity.

There is not enough land for the growing population and so I encourage my people to go out into the world and get work in other places.

I have built houses at Gilgit, Karimabad, Passu, Khaiber, Misgar and Murkushi which have been of great

service to Officers travelling on the road and have improved the communications through my country.

In the old days the people had to guard the country from Mayun and the Chapursan and Shimshal against enemies and, as soon as the war drum was heard beating in Baltit, the men used to assemble - the upper classes to fight and the lower to bear burdens - round the fort while a small band went up the mountains behind Baltit and lit the fire if the enemy were from Nagir and two if there were any Kashmir troops upon the way. In addition to this every year raiders set out over the Pamirs to get what loot they could from the Kirghiz or any other people they might happen upon. On these expeditions rations were taken from Rashkam and dumped at various stages on the road; if no victims were discovered the force used to return as soon as their food ran out living on the dumps they had made. Very frequently pearls, rubies, opaz and other precious stones were captured in these raids, of which the Mir received a third share.

In those days it was the custom to sell into slavery any men who had been captured from Nagir and elsewhere, although the men of the country were never sold as was customary in the Chitral and Badakshan. If any man rebelled against the Mir and fled the country all his property was confiscated though, if the ruler was considerate the confiscated lands were given to a near

relative of the offender.

There are four clans in Hunza and in each village there are appointed four 'Makaddams' (men of good family) who settle any little disputes that may arise. If they consider a crime is too serious for them to settle they refer it to the Trangfas and they, in turn to the Mir's court which is ever open and from sentence of which there is no appeal.

If it is considered that a death sentence is called for the people are collected and if any one will speak up for the culprit his sentence is remitted otherwise he is executed in the presence of the people.

In the former times if anyone committed adultery his house could be destroyed, his animals slaughtered and his trees felled without any trouble falling on the offenders and though that custom has fallen into desuetude it is still considered right for a man to kill his wife's lover if he can catch them 'flagrante delicto' !

Marriage is not allowed between near relations and whenever possible, people marry into a clan different from their own. Child marriage is discouraged and tribal customs have been moulded to conform to modern ideas since I became Mir.

The people of Hunza were originally idolators and they became Shias when inter-marriage with the ruling family of Baltistan was arranged and later, when my

great grandfather Shah Salam Khan was on the throne, most of the country became Maulai. In Ganesh and Hinni, there are still a few Shias and two Sunnis. When I became Mir I declared to the people that they could adopt that religion they would which annoyed my advisers who said that a country with many religions was bound to fall.

I said that religion had nothing to do with ruling and have proved myself right in that there has been no religious strife in the country since that time.

From time to time we have tried to have relations with Nagir that were friendly but they have never lasted, although there have been marriages between the ruling families of both countries. My father and Zafar Khan Mir of Nagir used occasionally to meet and I remember all the formality of these occasions. Each would come with a large number of followers and would halt on either side of the river. On one occasion Uzar Khan came over to Hunza and there was a great feasting; on another the Mir came and I and some other people from Hunza had to go over to the Nagir bank of the river and remain there as hostages until the Mir returned.

Every year I go duck shooting at Gilmit. The lake there was sounded in the time of my father and was found to be fifty one feet deep but since that time the water has fallen. The depth of the lake seems to depend

on the Gulkin glacier for when that advances the lake rises, when it retreats the water falls. A great quantity of geese arrive there between the 12th. and 15th. of October and one year - the year that influenza first came to the Agency - I shot two hundred and forty five geese in the few days I was up there.

In former years Shimshal was used as a place to which people were exiled and as officers were continually asking me what sort of place it was, I determined to go there and see for myself. The track there was very bad indeed and in two places there were goat hair bridges which were very unpleasant to cross. A ring of wood was used and the traveller was drawn from one bank to the other and if he wore a beard most of the hairs were dragged out on the way. At the junction of the Shimshal and Mustagh nullas salt is mined.

Members of my family have married into the ruling families of all the countries round. One aunt married in Wacha (Chinese Turkestan) and her children still live there; a sister married into Chitral and is still alive; Mir Sikander Khan of Nagir had an aunt of mine for mother as has the Raja of Astor. Another aunt of mine married the Mir of Badakshan and there have been several other marriages into the country.

My father had six wives, three of which were of the ruling classes and three from the Zemindaris. All however, were married to him according to the law and so he

left behind no bastards.

I remember the names of my father's horses which were:-

Daulat Tori, it was piebald and was from Katghan.

Hazar Pasandi, was a fine horse.

Khing, Jaulan, Bahri, Shatarogh, Barta, Taoos, Badar Gul, Qulla, Kabutar, Damboos, Faraham, a Kalmaki pony which Yaqut Beg had sent as a present to my father, Zardah, Bakhta, Parindah, Asfar, Diwana Jang, Dev Kura, Yuz, Yarman Lok, Hawapar, Tazi, Shakar, Ablaq Boz which was brought when Hunza people conquered Sarikul, Hawa Par which was sent by Mir Hassan Beg. Qizil Sultan sent by Murad Khan Katghani, and Killik-i-Sayah the last of all ridden by my father.

Thereafter, he used to ride a Yak. The aforementioned horses were the favourite ones of my father and on the New Years day (Persian) they were saddled with saddles and equipment decorated with gold and a race was run, and thereafter, shooting with bow and arrows, tent pegging, and polo was played on them.

I remember all the Mottibars of Hunza from the time of Shah Ghazan Khan to that of my father Ghazan Khan. Their names were:-

Wazir Asadullah Beg, Murad Beg, Trangfa Ghulam Shah, Yarfa Murato, Mirza Hassan, Zamiro, Muhammad Zamir, Daulat Beg from Garalt, Nasiro, Tahir Shah, Muhammad

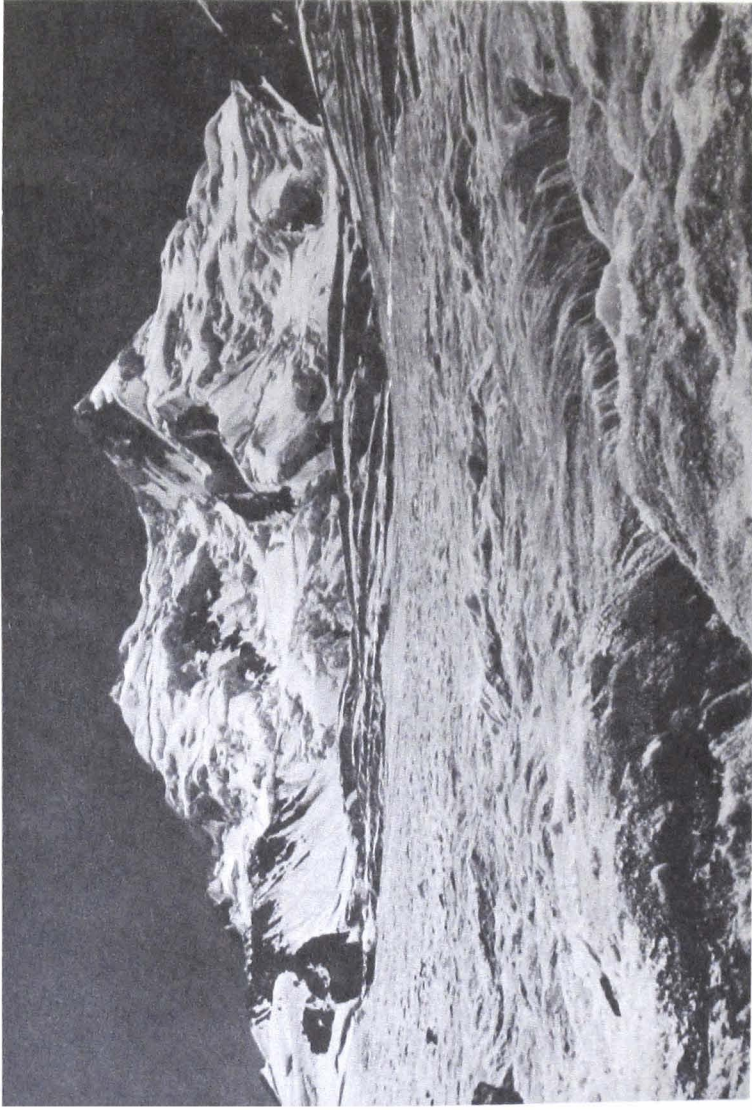
Ali, Dadoo, Iskandar, Ali, Gauhar Azdar Gul, Khan, Khurram Shah, Abdullah and Behram Shah, from Ganesh, Karim, and Daulatmand from Dorkhan, Muhabat, Nadir, Ghulam Muhammad, Turrab, Mubarak Shah, Fazal and Hasano from Aliabad, Yusuf Beg, Hamail Shah, Asgharo, Hassan Ali, Muhammad Yar, and Daulat Mand from Hassan Abad, Habibullah, Tolwi, Khawaja Khan and Haider Beg from Hinni, Noor and Gulsher Khan from Mayun. In Chaprot when it was under Hunza the mottibars were Wazir Sultano whose son Sultan Ali (Subedar) is, Mirza son of Badur, and Raja Beg. I know them all personally as I quite remember when my father went to Chaprot. Mottibars Hashim, Taifoor, Hub, Kadiro, Tula, Daulat Beg, and Ghulam Shah were of Altit, Fazal and Ata, of Ahmadabad. The last named is still alive. The Mottibars of Gimit were Diwana Shah, Sahdan Shah, Ghulam Din, Ghubui, Sultan Beg, and Darvesh. The Mottibars of Ghulkin were Wabal Shah, Ali Gauhar, Ali Jauhar, Khurram Shah, Bahadur Shah, and Nazar Beg. At Sosani the mottibars were Nabi, Said Muhammad, Muhammad Aziz, Sarwar and Majawar. At Passu the mottibars were Muhammad Sakhi, Sarang Muhammad, Gonk, Mahmood, Parasti, Iskandar, Jusi Hashim and Muhammad Qaim. At Khaibar the mottibars were Ghulam Shah, Batti, Aish and Muhammad. The mottibars of Forkhun were Muhammad, Mirza Hassan, Muhammad Yar. Taighoon

Shah, Niaz Beg and Quazi. The Mottibars of Gircha were Beg Muhammad, Naraz Shah, Naraz Ali and Karim.

All the afore-named Mottibars were leading Mottibars, there were many others of lower status, whose names are omitted for fear of unnecessary details. In my time Wazir Humayun Beg, Muhammad Isa and Zarparast were leading members in addition to the older ones who are now dead.

I have personal knowledge about the following names:-

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Hunza. | My father Ghazan Khan and Raihan Ali a refugee. |
| Bagram. | Raja Zafar Khan, Muhammad Khan Uzar Khan, Alif Khan, Ghauri Tham Khan, Yarkhan, Deng Malik, in addition Alif Khan, Kamal Khan and Ali Dad who were the cousins of the Fir of Hunza (my father). |
| Peshawar. | Akbar Khan and Afiat Khan. |
| Kashmir. | Mir Aman brother of Gauhar Aman. |
| Kandahar. | Ghulam Naqshband. |
| Balkh Notables. | Ghulam Haider, Hallo, Masehno (?) Mukhtar Dinar, Hanifa and Shah Mirza. |
| Kashmir Mottibars. | Murtaza Shah, Ismat Shah. |
| Kashmir Mottibars. | Zulfikar Sher, Shahidul Ajam (dead now). He was related to me on my mother's side. |
| Kashmir. | Mir Alimardan Shah. I had not seen Fateh Ali Shah father of Mir Ali Mardan Shah, but I remember when he died. The Mottibars of Wakhan I knew were, Quazi Sarwar, Aka Shigir, Khan Abni Turab, Sifat and Lhushkadam. |
| Kashmir. | Abul Hassan Beg father of Karim Beg, Mirza Gul Beg, Ming Beg, Afzal Shahn Beg, |



The head of a glacier.

Mir Baba Yakub Shah, Muhabb at Shah Sulaiman Khawaja, and Sayid Shah Talib. Tula Bai belongs to the younger generation.

Tiznif. Batastabusi.

Taghrama. Ziauddin Alam. Ziauddin had shown some tricks at Passu in the time of my father, and I was present there.

Astor. Bahadur Khan. He was related to Hunza on his mother's side. Of the mottabars I know of Wazir Muzaffar Ali, Wazir Rozi Khan and Miro of Donyan.

Kashmir. Maharaja Partab Singh, Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir. Baldev Singh the Ruler of Punch, Raja Amar Singh, Diwan Amar Nath, Hakim Lala Khush Muhammad.

I have seen the following Indian Chiefs at the Delhi Durbar:-

Nizam.i.Hyderabad, and his Wazir Kishan Parshad. Maharaja of Baroda, Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharaja of Bikanir, the old Raja of Nabah, the Chiefs of Sikam, Indore, Gwalior, Barat Pur, Patiala, Gaikawar, Nepal, Burma, and the Begum of Bhopal. I also saw Chandar Sher Jang the Wazir of Nepal.

Baltistan. Muhammad Khan Raja of Sakardoo, the Raja of Shigar, Raja of Knaplo, Raja Alimardan of Khamang, Raja Ali Sher Khan of Rindoo. The Wazir of Baltistan. All these I met when I went to Kashmir in connection with the visit of Lord Minto.

Of the British Officers and Lords I know the following:-

Lord Curzon, Major Lockheart, Major Bidullf, Younghusband, Lord Minto, Dean the Foreign Secretary, Lord Harding, the Duke of Connaught the King Emperor and Queen Mary.

esidents in Kashmir.

Col. Ramsay, the Honourable Mr. Fraser,
Sir John Wood, Mr. Howell, Col. Ogilvie.

olitical Agents, Gilgit. *Col Bailey.*

Colonel Durand, Major Stewart, Robertson,
Manners Smith, Colonel Bruce, Major
Bruce, the latter died at Gilgit, Gordon,
Dew, Smith, Macpherson, Lorimer, Loch,
Todd. *Major, G. v. B. Gillan Sahib Bahadur,*

ssistant Political Agents, Hunza. *Major G. - Kerk bide Sahib.*

Stewart, Gordon, Youngusband, Guff,
Miles, Napier and Marsnal.

azir.i.Wazarats, Gilgit.

Bakshi Wool Raj, Lala Ram Kishan, Lala
Ganpat Ram, Lala Ganga Singh, Muhammad
Akbar Khan, Durga Parshau, Ram Rattan,
Chattar Singh and Janak Singh.

adian Assistants.

Major Hassan Shah, Abdoul Hakim, Amir Ali,
Iftiknar Ahmad, Bahadur Ali Shah,
Azizuddin, Sher Muhammad, Ghulam Muhammad,
Muhammad Masih Pal.

I know a number of subordinate Munshies but the
etails of their names would be tiring.

ommandant of Scouts.

Major Bridges, Assistant Commandant Capt.
Shea, Major Inglis for a short while,
A.C. Long-Staff, Lieut. Hallet, Capt.
Longbottom, Captain Edwardes, Captain
White, Captain Berkeley, A.C. Lieut. Frier.

I have accompanied many of the Political Agents
the Killik on tour and go as far as Chapursan annually,
d on each of my visits have something done that will be
permanent value to the people.

During one tour I had the 'maqbara' of Babaghandi, which was originally constructed of sun baked bricks, built of stone with a dome of wood; on another a memorial was made to Lord Kitchener. In 1925, I had a house built for my son Shah Baz Khan who lives at Gilmit and another one built there for another son Moh'd Amin Khan.⁽²⁾

In former times the tithes that were collected from people were taken by the Pirs themselves to Bombay and there presented to the Agha Khan; now I collect them myself - they amount to about six or seven thousand rupees a year - and send them off by money order.

My son Shah Baz Khan once went to Zanzibar to pay his respects to the Agha Khan and my eldest son, Subedar Major Ghazan Khan, has twice seen him. On his return from one of these visits he toured in Landi Kotal with Major Erskine and went to Jammu at the request of Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir who had just then ascended the throne.

⁽²⁾ Amin Khan died by his own gun in 1932

CHAPTER XI

There are various legends in the country which are believed by the people.

It is said that in old, old times an army from Sakhtar entered the Hunza valley and settled there but the first rulers seem to have been Shah Tham and Shah Quli who came from Shighan over the Irshad Pass. From the Killik to Chapursan the country was populated by Kirghiz, Tughulics lived in the Shimshal and Hunza proper was very sparsely inhabited at Altit, Baltit and Ganesh. These two princes came over with twenty men and as there were no rulers at that time they were elected chief and ruled the country from Altit for twelve years.

Then a giant and idolator named Kisar arrived from Baltistan and converted the people to his way of thinking, telling the rulers that unless they acknowledged his sovereignty he would kill them. Kisar had a fairy wife named Bobuligus but was in love with a Balti woman called Langi Bongu.

One day a fairy told him that Langi Bongu had been living with another man and the giant was so enraged that he turned his fairy wife into a hen which he placed on the top of the Baltit mountains and left the country. The mountain is still called Bubulimonting.

Some time after this Kisar went down to Gilgit but an account of his doings there would take too long to tell and he was eventually killed by Sherinbauat who took the reins of government into his hands.

He was an unpleasant person with cannibalistic tendencies who oppressed the people from Hunza to Yasin and was killed in his turn by Hazir Jamshed, our first ancestor.

Hazir Jamshed married his daughter Noorbakht and Lal Tham - one of their sons - came to Hunza. He had two sons Girkhis and Mughlot and after his death his brother Tarakhan divided the lands of Hunza and Nagir between them. The division was made at Soumaya where the bridge is still called Tara Khan, Hunza being given to Girkhis and Nagir to Mughlot. In those days Hopar, Sumayar, Gilmit and Nilt were the principle villages.

After some years dissensions arose between the two brothers and Girkhis, ^{murdered by Mughlot} ~~fled the country~~. The people, however, would not accept the rule of Mughlot and appointed Noor Bibi the daughter of Girkhis to reign in his stead.

During her reign the land became prosperous and no invaders from outside came to disturb the peace. In the days of Shahbaz Khan and Ajash Khan, however, an army of Farnas, Mughal and Turah did try to invade Hunza but were beaten back and defeated.

The British are the only people who have conquered the country.

Noor Bibi married a son of Mughlot and had a son Dalashah from whom the ruler of Nagir are descended. Their names were Ali Don, Alidad, Kamal, Rahim, Babur, Uzar, Alif Khan, Zafar Khan and Sikandar Khan, the present Mir.

The rulers of Hunza are descended from Ayesho, son of Mayur who fled to ~~D~~arwas when Girkhis was put to death by Mughlot. The names of the rulers are Salam, Malik, Ayash Khan (2), Shah Sultan, Shahbaz, Shah Beg, Khisro, Shah Salam Khan, Shah Ghazanfar Khan, Mir Ghazan Khan and Mir Sir Moh'd Nazim Khan K.C.I.E. the present ruler.

It is said that at one time Tahir Shah ruled in Nagir. He was the ruler of Gilgit and invaded Nagir and killed Rahim and ruled both ilakas. Also that one Haritham went from Hunza and ruled in Nagir for twelve years.

Mirza the son of Salam Shah Sultan and Safdar Ali have also ruled in Hunza for a very short time as did the other sons of Ayesho, Haider Khan, Mirza, Shah Khan, Malik, ~~Salam~~, Haritham and ~~Shayam~~ ^{Shayam} but the rule of these latter was so brief - each was murdered by his brother - that they have not been included in the list of rulers.

In the time of Ayesho there were two famous soothsayers, Shangookor, who was left-handed, and his nephew Hokay Mamo whose descendents are still alive.

On one occasion there was a cow in calf grazing in the garden at Altit and Ayesho made each predict what the colour of the calf would be. Shangookor foretold a male calf with a white spot on the forehead, Hokay Mamo a female with a white tip to its tail. The former was correct.

On another occasion they were made to dance beneath a Chenar tree which was burnt down within my remembrance, and predicted that the Mir's wife, who was in labour, would bear a son who would be born with barley in one hand and wool in the other: this happened as they had said. The boy was called Hari Tham (barley king) in consequence.

Yet again they were made to dance and Mamo foretold that a time would come when people would walk over places where even the birds did not care to fly, that one king with a blue eye would rule Gilgit, Hunza and Nagir and that iron bridges would span the rivers where only rope bridges existed then. During this dance Shangookor disappeared into the mountains and was not seen until the following year when he reappeared in December carrying green ears of barley with him. He said that he had been taken by the fairies, who had treated him very well and

had agreed to his returning. On his way home he had passed through a jungle and had become one eyed.

* * * *

In olden times Chapursan was a very populated district and the village contained three hundred houses. In those days it was much warmer than it is now and wheat was grown there.

A saint named Baba Ghundi came from Bokhara through Ghund to Chapursan whom some people believe to have been the fifth Imam Moh'd Baquir; but the people were irreligious and mocked him and threw stones at him when he tried to tell them of a better life. So he left the village of Resht and went to Spang - about two miles upstream - where a poor old woman gave him shelter for the night in her hut and fed him with milk and bread which was all she had. Before leaving the Saint warned her to take all her possessions into higher ground but she told him that she had nothing except a sieve and even that had been borrowed by a neighbour and not returned. Early on the following day great clouds gathered, thunder boomed in the hills and the nullas began to fill with the result that there was a great flood in the valley of which traces still remain. Only the old woman's hut escaped destruction - the site is still known as Kampir Dayar

(the hut of the old woman) - and she saw the Saint in a green gown walking upon the waters. She also saw her sieve come floating along and asked the Saint to get it for her which he did.

After this the Saint went to Ishkok, a village of a hundred houses on the borders of a lake which was inhabited by an enormous serpent that was supplied daily with a youth from the village for a meal. The Saint arrived just as the victim was sitting disconsolately by the water waiting for the appearance of the monster. So the Saint waited with him and as soon as it rose from the water killed it. Its bones can still be seen in the locality.

From there the Saint journeyed to Reshat Jurab where his hand print can still be seen on a stone also the marks of his pony's jhool and shoe prints. At Shahr-i-Sabz there is a prayer stone that he used and it was there that he said his sepulchre was to be and that it was to be a place of pilgrimage. In the time of Shah Salim Khan the whole population of Chapursan was destroyed by another flood, but the tomb of the Saint was undamaged.

Many years afterwards another Saint called Sayid Shah Talin, whom some believe to be Imam Jaffar Sadiq, came into the valley with his son Sesooni and is buried there.

In the time of Shah Beg a Sayed named Shah

ali came on a pilgrimage from Badakshan to visit the tomb of Baba Gunai and from there to that of Shah Talim. But the latter would not let him proceed (?) and so he came to Hunza with a number of uervishes travelling over the mountain tops.

He stayed in Hunza for some time, where he started a spring in the hillside by piercing it with his spear, but he became angry with the people and went to Nagir where he died and was buried in Thol. During one dark night the people of Ghulmit stole his body from its shrine and carried it to their village. However, his tomb still exists at Thol and is still cared for by the descendants of the uervishes who originally accompanied him from Badakshan.

* * * *

At one time Shah Kamal, a Mir of Nagir, had been deposed by a member of the clan of Dengmalik and had fled over the Hispar Pass to Shigar where he petitioned a Saint named Shah Bariya to help him to regain his kingdom.

The Saint told him to return to his country and said that he would help him.

He set out, accordingly, with two followers but was so depressed by the hostile reception that was





The Darkot Darband near where the explorer
Hayward was killed.

given to him by the people at Hopar that he continued into Nagir with one lame man only. He arrived at the capital just after nightfall and found the gate-keeper of the fort asleep and the gate open. He was thus able to enter the fort unperceived and slay the usurper and so regained his kingdom.

A year after this Saan Bariya came over the pass in the depth of winter to pay Nagir a visit. It was bitterly cold on the glacier and one of his dervishes asked him to kindle a fire that they might warm themselves. This he miraculously did. A little later one of them fell into a crevasse and disappeared.

The Saint threw his staff after the man who was found fit and well when the party came to the snout of the glacier.

Here also they found a smooth slabe of stone that the Saint thought would make a good prayer stone. It was accordingly carried with the party and is still preserved at Ghamaling in Nagir.

Shah Kamal, the Mir, showed the Saint every courtesy. The Saint, in return, caused one of his dervishes to climb up a pear tree - though it was in the depth of winter - and shake it, whereupon ripe pears fell to the ground which were sent to Shah Kamal. He was so much impressed that he asked the Saint to teach him how to perform this miracle but he refused. On his pressing

his request Shah Bariya spat into his hand and a frog appeared. This the Mir wrapped in his handkerchief and returned home. Before entering his house he threw the frog away and gave the handkerchief to his daughter who, having wiped her face with it, was able to see everything where ever it was hidden.

Eventually the Saint travelled on to Gilgit where the Raja sent a dead cat to meet him. Shah Bariya laid his hands on the cat which got up and ran away causing the Raja of Gilgit to feel much embarrassment. He begged the Saint to forgive him which eventually he did.

Finally Shah Bariya went to Chitral and asked the Raja of Gilgit to accompany him thither that he might tend to his tomb for a year, but the Raja was loath to give up his throne and refused and the Saint left for Chitral accompanied by one Sangali. This man was very faithful and tended the tomb for many years. As a result of this faithfulness the Mehtar of Chitral gave him a house and made much of him and appointed him his successor when he died childless.

From him are descended all the Mehtars of Chitral and there is to this day a proverb in Hunza, Nagir and Chitral that "Sangalians become kings."

* * * *

When the Shinganis inhabited Shimshal the King

of Darwaz ruled over them. A Saint Shamsuddin Tabriz visited the country and disappeared into the hills. No one knows where he was buried and no one can find out as anyone who starts off to do so dies before he can discover it.

* * * *

In olden times the people were much troubled by ghosts who used to appear in the villages with their feet turned back and one eye in the middle of their foreheads.

In the time of Ayesho the Second, there was a particularly troublesome one, named Ding Latas from Shanokoshal who would consume one out of every two persons left out of the fort at night. It was in the days when Shugookor and his nephew were still living. They were well versed in the black art and succeeded in driving the ghost up into an apricot tree. When they forced it to descend from there it turned into a donkey and refused to move until it was slung onto the backs of two men called Ghalwakango and Bargosh who carried it as far as a big rock. Here it changed into a mouse and hid under the rock where it was secured by the Soothsayers who drove an iron peg into the ground and said that it would remain there until their bones had become dust.

* * * *

Once a long time ago Bagartham appeared to the people who were celebrating the spring festival, riding upon a tiger. He was wearing copper socks on his feet and these the people hid. He was unable to find them for some time, but eventually did so and was not seen again.

* * * *

A giant who was forty feet tall used to live at Hahayul near Khaiber where his storehouse was in a cave on the top of a hill. He was killed by Hafi Zho from Baltistan. The cave still exists.

* * * *

Originally Gilgit was called Dodeval, Hunza Hahayul and Yarkand Horyole. When the rulers of Shignam came to Hunza they named the valley Kanjud which name remained until the time of Girkis when he called the country Hunza because all the people were united like arrows in a quiver. 'Hunza' means arrow in the burushuski language.

* * * *

The Kasger Disturbance and the annual tribute.

According to the ancient custom the annual tribute to the Chinese Government which was sent every year to Kashger was withheld owing to the outbreak of revolution in Turkistan. This year by the command of the Political Agent Sahib in Gilgit, and British Consul General at Kashger the annual tribute was sent to the new Chinese Governor at Kashger. According to the old custom all presents were sent in return.

During Disturbance the British Consulate.

During revolution the British Consulate was attacked. The Tungaⁿ broke the shor gate and entered the premises of the Consulate at that time the Hunza peons (scouts) did their best to fight and turn the tungans out. The courage and loyalty of these Scouts has not only been recognized but has also been praised by the Consul General and the Political Agent Sahib Gilgit. During the clash one peon and two other servants were killed. The wife of the Consul General was seriously injured and a few other including the Surgeon received minor injuries but after some time the surgeon developed pneumonia and died. During this period when the law was in the hands of the revolutionaries and even the foreign subjects were not being spared. Colonel Thomson Glover the then British Consul General protected the Consulate and all His Majesty's Subjects by his bravery and wisdom. All along the Colonel was helped by his wife who in spite of serious injuries worked shoulder to shoulder with her husband.

Disturbance on our cattle.

Our cattle and sheep are sent for grazing to the Pamirs in sarik -ol. The annual revenue could not be received. No interference was caused with our cattle except in one case when a few Sarekolies who were living as refugees in the Russian Pamirs plundered a few of our sheep. On our report to Chinese Government by Political Agent and Consul General the Chinese authorities have promised to return all that was plundered by the refugees. Throughout the disturbance the revolutionaries did not interfere with our Yarkand Jagir.

ath of Raja Abdur Rehaman of Yaseen.

1933 Khan Bahador Abdur Rehman Khan of Yaseen a fast friend and near relative of ours went on a trip To Kashmir. In his absence his elder son fell ill and died. This secret was kept confidential. On his return the Raja Sahib died suddenly in a heart failure on the receipt of the sad news.

In his place Khan Sahib Raja Mir Baz Khan of Ishkoman was appointed Governor of Yasin, and the vacancy caused by him in Ishkoman was given to Raja Husain Ali Khan S/O K.S. Raja Bahadur Khan Of Gilgit the late Governor of Ghizar.

Marriage with the ruling families of Nager.

Since the reign of Mir Safdar Ali Khan a period of Fifty years marriage was contracted between the ruling families of Hunza and Nager But in 1934 in July the old relation were renewed the marriage of Prince Mohammad Jamal Khan with a daughter of Mir of Nager and a daughter of Mir of Hunza to the son of Mir of Nager named Muzafar Ud Din Shah, and daughter of Mir of Hunza, Major Mohd. Ghazan Khan to Babar Khan another son of Mir of Nager.

the birth of a son.

In the year of 1934 the Almighty God blessed me with a son who has been named Sahib Khan.

Boundary of Partab Sing Poora and Jaglot.

Between Partab Sing Poora and Jaglot the old boundary line was (Surkh Pari). On representation of Jagloties regarding the revision of boundaries the tahsildar Mehta Duni Chand visited the spot and confirmed the old boundary line. But the dharop of the Wazir of Gilgit was bribed by the Jagloties, he therefore cancelled the division of the Tahsildar and find another boundary. We are Thank ful to the present Wazir Ram Rattan M.A. who visited the spot and confirmed the old boundary (surkh pari)

their Majesty,s Silver Jubilee.

In the Year 1-e-1935 .on May 6th their Majesty,s Silver Jubilee was celebrated at Gilit. It was attended by all the ruling Chiefs of the Agency frontier. One Jubilee Medal was awarded to me well.

Death of our late Beloving King.

The day of the Tuesday 21st January 1936 was a very sad day to hear that our most beloved King George The Fifth was died to day.

Transfer of Gilgit to British ~~to~~ Government.

This year i-e. 1935. the civil and military administration of the Gilgit territory to the north of the Indus river has been entrusted to the British Government. The Kashmir forces and all Civil Officers being called back. The Military has been replaced by the Gilgit Corps of Scouts. Major G. Kirk Bride has taken over the charge of civil and military.

Appointment of new Wazir.

This year i-e 1936, my old Wazir Shokorollah Beg was unable to his services by his illness so we dismissed him and given his vacancy to the Zar Parast the new Wazir.

*my grandfather after getting the title of
K. C. S. I. early in first January (on new years
day) 1938, expired on 23rd July 1938.*

Mohd. Jamal
Karimabad. 27/4/36-