

ment was not in any way implicated in the murder, though at first suspicion naturally fell upon them.

The following letters were afterwards read :—

*Letter from MR. FORSYTH to SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON.*

“DEAR SIR RODERICK,

“Camp, Shadulla, 19th Sept., 1870.

“You will be anxious to hear what the Yarkand expedition has done in behalf of the Royal Geographical Society.

“The absence of the Atalik Ghazee from Kashgar has compelled me to return without effecting all the objects for which I was sent; but the opportunity of a second visit has been turned to good account by Mr. Shaw, who has been indefatigable in taking observations and determining accurately the position of several important places. I will not give secondhand any information which he will impart to you, but will merely put before you the result of my own inquiries.

“I had hoped to make great use of Major Montgomerie’s Pundit, but unfortunately it was not perfectly understood at the outset that he was to preserve a strict incognito, and when he joined my camp in Ladakh it was announced that he was a surveyor sent by the Government to survey all Yarkand. Now the Yarkand Government, though willing enough to be friends with us, was not quite prepared to admit a flood of European civilization; and to the Asiatic mind a survey is only preliminary to the advance of an army. I had therefore to send the Pundit back to India at once.

“However, in spite of this drawback, I think I have made some advance in our geographical knowledge, or, at all events, am able to put others better qualified than myself on the scent.

“I mentioned in a former letter that Marco Polo speaks of Charchan, regarding the locality of which I could find nothing in any map or modern work. He also speaks of the province of Peyn, Lop, Tangut, &c., regarding all which places our knowledge is very deficient. I will now give what I have gleaned on the subject. There is a town called Charchand, situated about 450 miles, or 30 marches, east of Khoten. The road to it skirts the foot of the Kuen Luen Range, which by all accounts, and certainly so far as we could see from the heights of Linzi Thung, extends far to the east, thus dispelling the notion that a cart-road could ever be found from Khoten to Ghartokh. Charchand is a town of some size, perhaps it has 8000 or 10,000 inhabitants, and lies in the gorge of one of many ravines on the north side of this range. There is said to be abundance of grass on the mountain-slopes, similar, I presume, to what we have observed on the slopes in Yarkand territory. Twelve rivers flow from the mountain-range to the north, and uniting, are said to form one stream and flow into Lake Lop. There was formerly, and possibly may still be, communication between Charchand and China. Merchants travel between Charchand and Khoten. Charchand is famous for its precious stones. The inhabitants are said to be Mahomedan. All this agrees with Marco Polo, it is said that the position of Charchand ‘seems to be that of Karashar. De Guignes speaks of a district named Char-chen, to the south of Hami, and near the Lake of Lop, which can be no other than this.’ I should be disposed, for the reasons already given, to place Charchand about 87° E. long. and 37° N. lat.

“Next as regards the province of Peyn. For a long time I could get no clue to this, till one man, speaking of the rivers which flow near Charchand, said they went into the *Pain Mulk* or lowlands. This at once struck me as the solution, not only of this doubtful point, but also of another which I will

presently mention. In the notes to the same edition of 'Marco Polo' the word Peyn is also given as Poim or Poin. Now Poin is in the broad Andijani dialect for Pá-een. I asked my informant, who spoke this dialect, and who had travelled from St. Petersburg to Oorumchee, and from Siberia to Khiva, whether this 'Pain Mulk' was inhabited. 'Not now,' he said. Formerly there were cities, but they have been buried by the sands of the desert. One of these cities, about seven days' journey from Khoten, is mentioned by Johnson, and my informant told me he had been there and had seen *tea* dug out of the ruins and brought for sale in the market of Yarkand. Takla Makan is, in fact, only another name for Marco Polo's province of Peyn.

"This leads me to touch on another point, the identification of *Bolor*: Colonel Gardiner, whom I met at Srinagur, said Bolor was nothing more nor less than 'Balá,' High (land): Bala is the Persian for high (or height, 'balái'): I did not at the time push the subject with him; but, on meeting with an Andijani Tajik, who had been sent to escort us from Sanju to Yarkand, I observed that in his broad dialect he pronounced the word Bala as 'bolor.' Now if Marco Polo's Pegn means 'low land,' his Bolor may mean 'high land.' This, I confess, is more natural to my mind than making Bolor a corruption of 'Belut Tagh.' But does my supposition help us to fix the locality of Bolor? Marco Polo gives this name to the region over which he passed for 40 days after crossing the Pamir, and before he reached Kashgar.

"All this country is, according to Colonel Gardiner, 'highland,' and called 'Balá Mulk,' or, as pronounced by my Andijani friend, 'Bolor Mulk.'

"As regards the desert of Lop, that undoubtedly is what we know as the desert of Gobi; and all the same stories told by Marco Polo, of evil spirits and strange noises, were retailed to me by my informant. There were cities on the edge of the desert, which have been destroyed by the sands. The people who live on the borders of Lake Lop are said to live on fish, and are dressed in garments made from the bark of trees. This betokens the vicinity of forests of some kind; but on this point my information is not reliable.

"Tanguth is a name still known, and is applied to the country about Karashahr. On this point, however, Mr. Shaw has made inquiries, which I leave him to communicate.

"I think the population of Yarkand has been put at far too high a figure, as 120,000. I should say that 40,000 was the very outside number. Karghalik, which, I believe, has been credited with a population of ten or twelve thousand, has, I should say, at the very utmost, 3000. I have invariably noticed that numbers are greatly exaggerated by natives, and often enough by Europeans.

"I am very sorry we were not able to reach Kashgar; but some future envoy will, I trust, be more fortunate, and will send you more valuable information than I, with my limited opportunities and powers, have been able to give."

*Letter from DR. CAYLEY to SIR HENRY RAWLINSON.*

"MY DEAR SIR HENRY,

"Lé, Ladák, 20th Sept., 1870.

"You may be interested to hear the latest news of the Mission to Yarkand, sent this summer by Lord Mayo, in return for the visit of the Atalik's envoy, Mirzi Shadi, who came to India last winter, and went to Calcutta to prefer his master's requests with the Viceroy.

"The Yarkand Expedition, consisting of Mr. Forsyth, Dr. Henderson, and Mr. Shaw—the latter joining the party in Ladák early in July, after a very rapid journey from England—accompanied by Mirza Shadi and Yakúb Khan, brother-in-law of the Atalik, after many delays in Cashmere, passed through-

Ladák early in July. I accompanied them as far as the Changchenmo Valley, and then went on ahead by a different route, in order to explore the upper, southern, branch of the Karakash River, discovered two years ago by Mr. Hayward, and see if an easier and shorter route could not be found leading to Shadula, the frontier fort of Yarkand. I rejoined the Yarkand party on the Karakash, four marches above Shadula. After I left them, Forsyth's camp met with what might have proved very serious disasters on the road. The Wazir of Ladák went with the camp as far as Changchenmo, and then said that everything was ready, and Forsyth started on the 2nd March from Changchenmo. Just at the worst part of the road, where there is no grass, he found that no barley had been sent for the horses, and the wretched animals, originally quite unfit for the journey, died wholesale. In three days they lost nearly a hundred ponies, and very nearly had to turn back; but, by leaving half the camp behind, Forsyth was able to push on, and reached Shadula all right. A few days later, when too late, the Wazir sent on no end of yaks laden with grain, and, as a matter of course, a great number—some two or three hundred—died on the road; yaks being quiet unsuited for that kind of journey.

"We reached Shadula on the 5th of August, and there heard for the first time that the Atalik was absent, with all his forces, on a hostile expedition against the Tunganis in Kuchar and Turfan; and, it was said, as far as Orumchi. This news had been so carefully suppressed, that in Ladák nothing was known of it, or Forsyth would not have gone on. Only one man had reached Ladák since the winter, and he did not breathe a word of any disturbance having occurred; but said the Atalik was at Kashgar, as usual. None of the merchants were allowed to start until Forsyth reached Yarkand territory, and, though several of them had tried to send letters to me in Ladák, the messengers were all stopped on the road. The man who did come over, and brought letters from the Dád Khwáh of Yarkand, of course told the envoy Mirza Shadi; but he kept it dark. He is a typical Andijani at telling lies. At Shadula he assured Forsyth that the Atalik was on his way back, having destroyed all his enemies, and would be in Kashgar in a few days, though this was all false.

"The course of events in Yarkand during the last few months has been as follows:—Early in March last all the available troops in Yarkand, Khotan and other places were ordered to proceed in haste to Mural Bashi, five stages east of Kashgar, where the Kashgar troops had already gone, and a few days afterwards the Atalik himself joined the army. This was on account of some intelligence received from Aksu and Kuchar. After reviewing the troops at Mural Bashi, the Atalik distributed pay, clothing, &c., and marched on to Aksu six stages. Here there was a little fighting, the people of the city having a plot formed in Khotan among the Mullahs to raise a revolt and seize the fort, but the outbreak was at once put down and a few hundreds executed.

"On my return from Shadula I followed an entirely new route for great part of the way, and which turned out by far the shortest and best route in every way between the Changchenmo Valley and Shadula. From the latter place I crossed the mountain range south of the Karakash, and then traversed the great Maliksha Plain, lying between that range and the Karakoram, to its south-east corner, where I found a very easy pass into the basin of the Upper Karakash. I then followed up this river for two marches to Kiziljilga (see Hayward's map), and from there continued south up the main branch of the river to where it turns due west, and from thence I crossed two easy passes, with a plain of about 10 miles across between them, into the Changchenmo watershed. The distance from Maliksha to Gogra, in Changchenmo, was nine easy marches, generally along sheltered valleys, and only at one halting-place was there no fuel and grass. Almost everywhere along the whole road they

were most abundant, and water was most plentiful the whole way. I think Forsyth will return by this route, and I have sent men to show him the way. None of the maps of the country are quite right. Hayward's is nearly so, but he did not follow up the Karakash above Kiziljilga, and between that point and the head-waters of the Changchenmo the country has never been regularly mapped; but I hope to have a correct map of this region ready in a short time.

"There is a report here which came from Cashmir that Hayward has been murdered in Chitral. It is a mere rumour, and very likely entirely false and without foundation; and I heartily hope it is. I have written to Cashmir to try and find out if anything has been heard there. I hope his friends may not hear of it, should it be false. I cannot help feeling anxious, as he had with him a good deal of property, and the people of those regions do not much regard human life.

"Believe me yours very truly,  
"HENRY CAYLEY."

*Second Meeting, 29th November, 1870.*

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR HENRY C. RAWLINSON, K.C.B., VICE-  
PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Sir Henry Barkly*, K.C.B. (Governor of the Cape); *Julius Beer*, Esq.; *E. Clapton*, Esq., M.D.; *Edwin Fairland*, Esq. (Surgeon 21st Hussars); *Andrew Grant*, Esq.; *F. H. Gottlieb*, Esq., J.P.; *G. N. Hooper*, Esq.; *Lieutenant T. M. Hitchens*, Esq., R.A.; *John B. Harbord* (Chaplain R.N.); *Rev. R. P. Hooper*; *Captain A. F. P. Harcourt*; *Captain Thomas Jessop*; *Henry S. King*, Esq.; *George Lyall*, Esq. (Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England); *George Latham*, Esq., C.E.; *Lord Lindsay*; *A. L. Leveret*, Esq.; *L. Mariani*, Esq.; *Lieutenant A. MacLeod*, R.N.; *John Macturk*, Esq.; *W. C. Martin*, Esq.; *H. John Nicoll*, Esq.; *Samuel Nash*, Esq.; *James Nichols*, Esq.; *Sir Thomas Pycroft*, K.C.S.I.; *C. M. Poole*, Esq.; *W. S. Parfitt*, Esq.; *Hon. W. C. F. Robinson* (Governor of Prince Edward's Island); *William Rice*, Esq.; *George E. A. Ross*, Esq.; *Rev. Thomas Ratcliffe*; *Lieutenant Henry Stanley*, R.N.; *W. A. Sanford*, Esq.; *Major-General H. B. Turner*; *J. W. Trutch*, Esq. (Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, British Columbia); *Frederick Wilder*, Esq.; *Sir Philip Wodehouse*, K.C.B.

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY FROM NOVEMBER 15TH TO 29TH.—  
'Memoir on the Gold Coast.' By B. F. Murphy. 1831. Donor W. D. Cooley, Esq. 'Memorandum on the Survey of Architectural and other Archæological Remains in the Bombay Presidency.' By J. Burgess. 1870. Donor the author. 'Ferrovia Tramsandina.' Per Emilio Rosetti. Buenos Aires, 1870. Donor the author. 'Education and Status of Civil Engineers.' Donors the Institution