

by river to Khiva. Under the Khan's protection he proceeded northwards to Kunya-Urgenj, whence he turned westwards across the Turkoman desert, by the old bed of the Oxus and Sary-Kamish, to Krasnovodsk; he crossed the Caspian to Baku, returning to Europe by Tiflis, Batoum, and Odessa.

Mr. Joseph Thomson embarked at Suez, in the *Arcof*, on the 11th of January, for Aden and Zanzibar, after a short stay in Egypt. He visited Dr. Schweinfurth in Cairo, and obtained some information regarding the journey across Africa of Lieutenant Wissmann, who was detained in Egypt, on his way home, by a slight attack of fever. From Nyangwé, Lieutenant Wissmann had travelled to Tanganyika and Ujiji by the usual caravan route, visiting the Lukuga outlet on his way, which he found nearly in the same condition as when Mr. Thomson saw it. He says that the Lake Lincoln, reported by Dr. Livingstone, does not exist. Between Ujiji and the residence of king Mirambo (of whom he speaks very favourably) he had a narrow escape of his life in a village brawl, which arose among the natives during his stay.—According to a letter from Mr. Wakefield, received within the last few days, the neighbourhood of the mission station of Ribé, near Mombas, has recently been visited by a marauding party of Wakwafi, a tribe through whose territory Mr. Thomson will have to pass on his expedition, and who are said to be a section of the redoubtable Masai nation. The raiders made their first appearance near the settlement on the 25th of October, and hovered about for a day or two without venturing to attack the place. Their object seems to have been cattle-stealing. Mr. Wakefield watched them most of the time. They approached with great wariness and hesitation, almost creeping under the shelter of their long shields, and keeping to the side of the village where there were trees and bushes, apparently afraid of the stone houses. The natives on watch in the settlement wanted to shoot them, which they could have done very easily; but Mr. Wakefield ordered them not to fire, knowing the bad effect which any bloodshed might have on the prospects of Mr. Thomson's expedition. The danger of a collision, however, was only averted with difficulty, for two of the marauders approached one of the houses very closely, and shouted a challenge with their spears. The party eventually retreated precipitately, showing the greatest cowardice on shots being fired at them by a neighbouring farmer.

Journey of a Native Indian Explorer through Tibet.—One of General Walker's native explorers has just returned to India after an absence of four years, during which he has obtained a large amount of new geographical information, and finally disposed of the question of the Sanpo river. He had travelled on a former occasion with one of the celebrated pundits, and was trained by him for this expedition. He left India in March 1878 with two companions, C—— and D——, proceeding

from Darjiling to Lhasa viâ Phari, intending to equip himself there for a journey towards Lob Nor, which place Prejevalsky had not then reached. At Lhasa he was detained for some time. At length he joined a caravan proceeding to Mongolia, and accompanied it to a place called Thingali, on the road to Sinning (roughly in lat. 36° by long. 96°) which was reached in December 1879. Here the caravan was attacked by a band of robbers, and they were plundered of most of their property, the traveller's stock-in-trade being reduced to about a tenth of what it had been, but he saved his instruments. He then started north-westwards towards Lob Nor, and although detained two and a half months at a place called Gobi, managed to push onwards to Saithang (lat. 39° , long. 92°). Here one of his companions deserted him, after robbing him and his other assistant extensively, and he and his remaining companion thereupon took service with the Mongolians, whom they accompanied to Saitu (lat. 40° , long. 92°), the northernmost point which they reached, and which is possibly identical with Marco Polo's Sachiü. There they entered the service of a friendly Lama, with whom they travelled back to Saithang, and then south-east to Barong Chaidam (lat. $36^{\circ} 30'$, long. 97°), and afterwards south to Thuden Gompa, where they took service with a Chinese Tartar, and accompanied him to Ta-tsien-lu, where they reported themselves last February to the Jesuit mission. The mission bishop sent immediate information to General Walker of their arrival, which was most welcome, as a few months before Nain Sing had been informed that the traveller had had his legs broken to prevent him from making further explorations, and that his companion D—— had been executed by the authorities at Lhasa. Thence they proceeded to Batang, and after some stay endeavoured to reach Assam by the direct route. They proceeded as far as Rima and Sama (*sic*), on the frontier of the Mishmi country, where they were told that it would be impossible to reach Assam by the direct route, as the Mishmis were savages, who would murder them; they therefore took the circuitous route to Lhasa viâ Alauto and Gjamda, and having reached the latter place they turned down to Chetang on the Sanpo, avoiding Lhasa for fear of being recognised. From Chetang they travelled viâ Giangze Long and Phari to Darjiling, where they arrived last month. The traveller has managed to save all his journals and his instruments, and bring them back with him. He has taken a large number of observations for latitude, and kept up a more or less continuous traverse of his route. It will take some months to plot his work and draw up a report of it, and General Walker regrets that he no longer has a Montgomerie to aid him in the task.—The traveller says that Sama, on the Mishmi frontier, is the place where two Europeans coming from Assam were murdered some thirty years ago. Thus Sama must be identical with Wilcox's Simé, where the priests Krick and Boury were murdered in 1854; and the remark by Colonel Yule, at p. 381 of vol. xxx. of the 'Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal,' that "this murder of

two missionaries becomes thus in fact the basis of a geographical conception between British India and Thibet," is even more appropriate now than it was originally. If the Sanpo river passes into the Irawadi, the native explorer must have crossed it between Batang and Sama, between Sama and Gjamda, and again at Chetang; but he is positive that he only crossed the Sanpo once, at Chetang, and that on the road from Sama to Gjamda there is a great range of hills to the west, separating the basin of the affluents of the Sanpo from that of the affluents of the river to the east. One of the latter may possibly fall into the Irawadi, but the Sanpo assuredly cannot do so. General Walker is much pleased with his traveller's performance, and his steady perseverance with his work after he had been robbed of all his money, and was compelled to take service in order to earn a livelihood.

The Tin-producing District of South-east Queensland.—Mr. Robert L. Jack, Queensland Government Geologist, who was engaged in July last upon an inspection of the Stanthorpe Tin Mining District, on the Queensland and New South Wales frontier, has made a preliminary Report, from which the following points are taken:—His journeys extended from Maryland south-westward to the Red Rock, a distance of about 30 miles, within which limit he visited most of the stream tin-workings, and also traversed the greater part of the range between Maryland and the heads of Sugarloaf Creek. The district consists, at least as far south as Ballandean, mainly of granite, presenting the usual features observed in a region of that nature, and forming a table-land at an average elevation of little less than 3000 feet above the sea-level. The high grounds rise in soft undulations, where the granite is decomposed to a considerable depth, with an occasional "tor" or mass of huge undecomposed blocks, with their asperities rounded off, standing up isolated in such a manner as to suggest carriage from a distance by glacial action. The summit of the range dividing South-east Queensland and New South Wales presents a chain of these "tors," often continuous for some distance, but with frequent gaps where the rock has been disintegrated, through which the range may be crossed almost imperceptibly in many places. The heads of the streams draining this country are shallow and swampy, and when they attain any magnitude they find it easy to wander among the soft decomposing surface of the lower granite region. Thus the Dumeresq, or Severn, and its tributaries have exceedingly tortuous courses and deep alluvial deposits. The tin-producing area appears to be nearly coincident with that occupied by the granite, and by far the greater part of the ore is in fine grains, not exceeding the size of an ordinary pin's-head, and generally forming with quartz granules and pebbles the matrix of a coarsely-cemented conglomerate, lying directly on the bed rock, surmounted by a varying thickness of sand. Mr. Jack's more minute observations lead to the conclusion that the tin-stone was originally in the form of mostly small