

Leaving Ladakh for Kashmir

Continuation of William Moorcroft's journal
for
September and beginning of October, 1822

A transcription by Dan Jantzen and Aurélie Bouquet

based on digital copies of MSS Eur D 247 and 248
obtained from the British Library

October 5, 2023

Resumption of Journal
September
&
beginning of October [1822]

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September

[The] return of Abdool Luteef, the confidential servant of the Minister and of Hajee Effendee was announced from Nubra in the middle of this month and the letters of the Chinese Authorities to my address declared the failure of the mission. A recital of certain particulars connected with this transaction and translates of the letters as transmitted to our Government ren[ders] details on this subject unnecessary. It is not however foreign to observe that if I had pursued the plan I had originally laid down of proceeding with [out] appraising the Chinese Authorities of my intention, no attempts would have [been] made by them to oppose my [journey]. But the want of money ren[dered] its execution impracticable in [the] first instance and the delay in forwarding remittances to the amounts [of my] Draughts gave time for

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our opponents to prepare misrepresentations to our disadvantage at Yarkund necessitating an effort on our part to remove them. This was well conducted by Meer Izzut Oollah Khan and would have been completely successful had not the Kashmeeree Agents caused the order for the signature of the Passports to be ?revised?¹ when it was found that the day for this formality had been actually fixed. Convinced that any further exertions from this direction would be unavailing I determined upon proceeding to Bokhara by the route of Kashmeer and Kabool and for this purpose hired sixty horses to carry our merchandise and baggage at the rate of ten Rupees a horse as far as Dras. My friend Mr Trebeck it was agreed would stay at Leh until the arrival of

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of my Servant Ghoolam Hyder Khan with a parcel containing pearls expected from Calcutta and with a change of guard from Subathoo to which place he had returned under arrangements which did not allow him to delay his departure from that station beyond the 21st of September. It was calculated that he might reach the Capital of Ladakh by the end of October and the departure of Mr Trebeck from Leh on his march to Kashmeer was fixed to take place on or before the tenth of November by which his arrival in that province might happen at the end of that month or in the beginning of December at farthest. Twelve horses of my own were left with Mr Trebeck to transport his baggage and that of the Sipahes Guard expected. If much snow should fall in the interval the passage of

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of the animals across the last Ghat would be rendered difficult if not impracticable but as two very snowy seasons seldom happened in succession I resolved to stand the risk and should the passage be impossible Mr Trebeck was desired either to leave the horses at Dras at keeping or to abandon them altogether according as might seem to him best. As soon as our intention of departing speedily was made known the Banka or Master of the Horse desired me to visit him at his house at Matsho where he was indisposed. On my arrival he observed that when my party first entered Ladakh the Kashmeerees represented that we should ruin the country, that so far from this having proved true we had done good to many, injury to none and had strictly paid for every article we had required and obtained, and acted diametrically contrary to the predictions of those persons who were in opposition to us. After this experience most of the principal Tibutees and he for one were much more desirous that we should stay constantly than that we should depart. That knowing

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knowing however the impossibility of our stay he was anxious to express his readiness to assist me in obtaining whatever I might think desirable in this country at any time and to show attention to any Europeans who might hereafter visit Ladakh. He desired that I would furnish to him a testimonial of his conduct towards our party in general and of the intimacy which had existed between us. He then stated his determination to visit me should I have any establishment in the Mountains, returned me a Horse for one he had borrowed and we took leave on the most friendly terms possible. The Minister on my visit of taking leave stated that he experienced much concern at our departure but hoped that distance would produce no alienation in our friendship that he ?.....ted?² the hope of our meeting again and intreated me not to forget the anxiety of Ladakh to owe its future happiness and prosperity to Britain. The circumstances which had occurred during my residence in Ladakh and especially the

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late occurrences in Toorkistan had placed the character of the British in a most advantageous point of view and had depressed proportionally that of the Chinese. He could have wished that his interference in Toorkistan could have been useful and he experienced both disappointment and mortification at finding it wholly fruitless. Should any of the productions of Ladakh be desirable he would have pleasure in forwarding them. The Lonpa at his house expressed similar sentiments and desired I would communicate information of our progress and the Raja & his son stated that they prayed every possible good might accompany us. After repasts & the receipt of presents of China Silks & Woollens for dresses along with Tea and a Horse from the Raja his Son, the Minister and the Lonpa I took my leave and on the 30th September made the first march to Skurra a very short distance from Leh and were accompanied by Mohsin Alee the

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the Imam and by all the principal Merchants at Leh.

Oct 1st. Several of the Merchants along with the Imam attended us to Peeong our second days journey and only took leave on the morning of the following day when we started for Ling the third march. The Superior of the Monastery of Peeong was absent in Chanthan[g] but his Deputy received us with much civility and after offering refreshments of Tea and Chung sent a supply of flour and butter for my acceptance. I had procured three Bactrian Camels from Yarkund in 1821 which had been fed in the thorny junguls of Nobra till the middle of September when they were sent for to Leh but as from the badness of the nearest passes through the destruction of the usual paths by the excessive fall of snow the year before and its melting by the unusual rain they were compelled to make a circuit to attain the pass of Sukhthee they did not arrive in time to accompany me.

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At Ling many sick persons were in attendance with presents of flour, butter and especially of apples and the wife of the Lonpa of Saspoola who had recovered from a disease in her eyes through a course of treatment presented by me expressed her gratitude in sending apple pips and stones of the white or Honey Apricot which she understood I had been solicitous to procure. In the march of this day I was tempted by the appearance of some thorny bushes in the grounds of some farmhouses in a deep valley to try for game and in a few minutes disturbed two foxes which had killed a Chokor or red legged Partridge. I fired at one and broke its hind leg but it beat me up the side of a Mountain and took refuge in a covert of thorn where he was secured and from which he had dislodged a Horse. At this place I got a Chokor and the Owner of a house in the dell told me that I should find abundance of this bird in a willow garden belonging to him and which he pointed out. Agreeably to his suggestion I visited

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visited this place with Mr Guthrie who however stayed a little behind me to examine the brushwood on the opposite side of a rivulet and who had not a Gun. On a sudden three large dogs sprung towards me but stopped at about twenty yards distance on seeing me stoop as if to collect stones of which however there were only two within my reach. By pretending to throw and by using my gun as a Staff two of the Dogs remained quiet & irresolute but the third and largest which had remained a little behind laid himself down on the ground looked at me and then rushed forwards with open mouth and with a speed which shewed he did not intend to to (sic) be disappointed in his attack. Seeing him so resolute the other two also advanced but more slowly. I waited till the animal was within ten yards when observing no abatement in his speed or demonstrations of anger I drew the Trigger and lodged the contents of my Gun small shot

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shot and slugs in his forehead and breast. He raised his head two or three times but died in a few seconds and I walked on the other Dogs remaining near their dead comrade barking but not attempting to renew the attack. A Man ran towards me from a neighboring house to enquire what I killed but I evaded his question by desiring him to show me the best road to some heights and to increase his alacrity put a piece of silver into his hand. Close to my horses I found the owner of the dog but said nothing of the adventure at the result of which I was greatly concerned as the Dog was amongst the very largest and most handsome I had seen in the country. He was superior in size and strength to any of mine and if alive I would willingly have given a hundred Rupees for him. However my regret was somewhat diminished by the conduct of the Owner who neither warned me of his having large dogs or sent to have them secured which was frequently done on approaching to houses where fierce

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fierce and large dogs were kept. At Himis I applied to the Hakeem for his assistance in procuring some seed of the beardless or flower Barley which I had found after much search growing near his house and to which place I had been directed by two daughters of a farmer living at Snoorla who had given me a few ears in consequence of my having furnished medicines to their father & promised to collect apple pips for me. The individual who had the field had converted the greater part of the grain into flour however I purchased the whole of the remainder though mixed with red Wheat and with another variety of barley. Being disappointed in the smallness of the quantity which would be farther reduced by picking at Kashmeer I desired to visit the Straw heap and found many heads mixed with those of other grain. By a small donation of Silver I enlisted many women and children to assist in picking out the flower barley heads and succeeded in obtaining a considerable

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quantity of heads for which I remunerated the Owner and at my tent by distributing a few apples amongst men and boys had the Chaff rubbed off and the grain cleaned thus obtaining a few quarts perfectly free from mixture. At Khurbo I procured from the Monastery a small quantity more of flower Barley mixed with a little of another variety which latter being of a blue color will be separated at Kashmeer and the former was recognized by the peculiar form of the capsule which still adhered to some. The following day we arrived at Wakka and revisited the island on which our party were nearly being swept away by the bursting of the bank of the River in the night of the 12th-13th August. Rozee Khan the Cho or Chief was absent but his Son Ahmeed Khan had prepared four Kinds of Barley but no Wheat & it was abundantly lucky that I had furnished myself with flower Barley as none had been procured. I here increased the quantity of the Ners

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Ners Yan Karmo and of the Nak Ners or black Barley through finding that it bore cold better than any other variety but I was not able to get it unmixed however its distinguishing color will favor its separation. I had purposed to remain here a day to

refresh my people and horses but the Owners represented that they could obtain supplies with difficulty and requested permission to proceed which was granted. The Minister had given an Order to the heads of villages to furnish Grass fuel and other articles free of expense and this being entrusted to the head Carrier I became acquainted with the fact only at the third stage where its efficacy was first tried. On being apprised of many persons having come each with a small supply of different things I was led to enquire into the reason and ordered payment to be made and nothing to be levied. However the paper had been omitted to be taken away from the Kafila Bashee and the Natives knowing it

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it not to be my custom to receive articles in such a way refused compliance with the order without reference to me. At Molbec I had proceeded to see an old woman who having regained her sight by an operation for Cataracts had shown herself grateful in various ways but whilst engaged in prescribing for other patients someone stole my whip capped & ornamented with Silver confirming the opinion for dishonesty founded on former experience. Here I was appealed to by the wife of the Wazeer of the Minister on account of certain fees due from the Carriers to the Noona Kaloon or second Minister who was absent on a visit to Zanskar. She said she knew perfectly well that no duties were to be received from me but that this exaction on the Carriers was usual and did not at all concern me. I went back to see her and when ushered into her Office Chamber was received by her with much graciousness

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graciousness she advancing to the door to meet me taking my presented hand between both hers and carrying it to her head in token of respect. Though invited I would not be seated until she took her seat beside me on the same Cushion. After compliments she spoke with great fluency on the subject of the Carriers Tax with which I wished not to interfere. It appeared however that the Kaloon or first Minister had not only granted an exemption for my merchandise and baggage but for that of all the persons who might accompany me to the frontier. The Cho Cho as she is called was quite a woman of business in every respect she pointed out her children of whom she had twelve living and one then present in a brocade dress and her head decorated with Turquoises. She was rather a pretty young woman wife to the brother of the Cho or Raja of Puskyoom. The Cho Cho insisted on my taking Tea

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and was anxious that I should stay dinner which however I declined as our march was rather long. She procured for me some black Barley and was very unwilling to receive payment. I desired she would tell me what I could do in return for her civilities and some Pomatum was mentioned. She promised to obtain any Grain I might wish at any future time and from her activity influence and general character I have much confidence in her proving a trustworthy commissioner. The price of one of the ponderous Collars worn by Women of the higher classes and composed of a gold bar Turquoises Corals and crooked pearls was I learned from her about £40 sterling. Mr Guthrie suggested that it was probably adopted for the purpose of

concealing the Goitre so common in the females of many parts of this country and I think this origin very likely to be correct. The Cho Cho gave me a portion of the Takin or Ibex which proved tender [and] of an excellent

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excellent flavor. It was customary she said when a wild Goat was killed in that neighborhood to send a limb to her and from this practice she seldom wanted venison but her stock at that moment unluckily for us was very low. On the road to Lotzum I brought down four Ducks at a shot but could only secure three which were very welcome. At Puskyoom much to my mortification we were compelled to stay a whole day and I here exchanged a horse given to me by the Kaloon with the brother of the Banka who wanted him for the game of Polo and received two Tibet Ponies in return better suited for carrying loads. Here on the night of the 12th & 13th October there was a fall of Snow and the Carriers who had proposed to follow the upper road now insisted to take the lower one along the edge of the River. This I refused to consent to unless they would agree to make good

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good any loss that might arise from the falling of baggage into the stream. This they refused to do but predicted that we should be detained several days on the Ghats of Oomba Lha through the quantity of Snow which had fallen. Resolving to run the risk we proceeded to Minjee where I obtained some more "black Barley," and also some good seed of late Barley. At this place a messenger from the Tamis or Tamhis Cho arrived with a present of ten small bags of Mussoor a species of Lentil which I returned by a considerable quantity of Tea which I learned would be grateful as he expected company and was but scantily provided with this article. On the road from Minjee to Lang Kurtze I met the Son of the Noona Kaloon with three or four females of his family astride on horseback dressed in garments of Brocade with Mantles of broad cloth and Sealskin hats. I chanced to be without attendants so that

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as our means of communication were soon exhausted we shook hands and parted somewhat more speedily than was consistent with the length of our acquaintance. He was preceded by a large flock of Sheep and Goats of Cows and Zhomos and of Horses and Asses too probably the result of exaction or of forced gifts. The Noona Kaloon his father had it was said proceeded to Zanskar on a visit to his son in law. This young Man I met is said to copy his father closely in the unamiable parts of his character and already to have become extremely unpopular though little more than twenty years of age. From the account rendered by a person who happened to be present when I first arrived at Molbec it would seem that his delaying to show any attention to me the first night produced a sharp altercation between his wife and him the former being the daughter of the Kaloon.

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The young Lady reproached at first gently and finding her remonstrances had no effect taxed him with insulting her father through neglecting his friend. He at length

gave way and promised to make atonement & apology the following morning but my early departure afforded not an opportunity as I had nearly reached the end of my stage before he was stirring the great men of this country rarely being visible to strangers or accessible on business before midday. This seemed to be the season of visiting as our party met the son and wife of the Raja of Sonth who were going on a visit to Ladakh. They were accompanied by a band of music, the lady on horseback had her face concealed by a Shawl but her husband a rather well looking young man carried an expanded Umbrella as a mark of his dignity on a day where an additional coat would have been a more appropriate appendage. I saluted him

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him a civility which he returned only by a stare of surprise. Near Puskyoom we encountered a band of the Raja's Courtiers attended also by Musicians on their way to meet the Wife of the Noona Wantuk or younger Brother of the Banka who was proceeding to visit the Ranees of Puskyoom. And on the following day the Visitor was welcomed by all the females of the district and whilst the males were engaged all day at Polo the night was spent in dancing and other revelry. But in justice to the influence of the Mahomedanism upon the converts of this country it must be remarked that intoxicating liquors are excluded from the banquet and Chung is found little farther West than Molbec with the lower classes. Butter milk or Tea with the supper Sherbets of infusions of apples dried and powdered of dried apricots and of the dried black Currant Grape of Baltee are taken in preference to the infusion of boiled Barley so common in all other parts of Ladakh. However the intoxication produced by the latter when taken in

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in excess seldom leads to riot or mischief and the temperance of the Moosulmans restrains not from the indulgence in a habit of pilfering much less remarkable amongst their countrymen of the Lamist faith. The Monks of the Monastery of Lama Yooroo sent their compliments to me on my arrival in their neighborhood with Tea Chung and a large Pumpkin they had received as a present. At this place three Qasids or Messengers reached me with letters and parcels from Delhi. Those from Mr Fraser the second Member of the Board of Commissioners were filled with the warmest professions of a desire to assist my views in every way in the power of Mr Ross and of himself. They were also accompanied by files of the Calcutta Journal of the present year with a later Number of the Quarterly and Edinburgh Review and Marsden's Edition of Marco Polo. An official letter from the first Member Mr Ross along with one in Copy from the Political Secretary announced the acquiescence

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acquiescence of the Government to place certain articles formerly intended as presents through me at my disposal again they having been deposited by me at Delhi in the hope and expectation that they might become available on the journey of which I have never lost sight since the year 1812. A private letter from the Political Secretary stated that my letters of 1821 had along with those of the present year reached the Gov^t in the Month of July and that they were then in circulation. I have,

supposing that these dispatches had arrived in due time been guilty of injustice towards the Government in conceiving that they had passed them over in silence as unworthy [of] attention and my last letter was written under the influence of this feeling on my part. Through what means my communications have been delayed will probably furnish a subject for enquiry. It is however most gratifying to know that I have not been treated with that neglect I was conscious my exertions had not merited.

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The Banka stated that the Raja desirous of giving me a good Horse and not having one of a suitable description there at command wished me to make my own choice from a department of his Stud at Sankhoo and for this purpose furnished a letter to the Anchoo or Assistant of Stud who lived at the latter place. The Banka had also signified his wish that I would receive from himself a Mule which would be found at Sankhoo or Sooroo. Being aware that my separating from the Caravan was likely to produce delay I requested Mr Guthrie to perform this Commission which he freely accepted. On the 16th we left Lang Kurtse and ascended W 60° S the bank of

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of a Rivulet which rising in the Mountains to the W of the village of Lang Kurste falls into the Kurste Choo or River the path narrow, stony rugged and steep. Before we reached the summit of the road a vast slip of earth fell from a high part of the mountain and enveloped a large extent in a dense cloud of dust which was long in subsiding. At about a mile and a half we reached a village of about a dozen farm houses with a considerable quantity of land from which the corn had lately been cut. The grain was early Barley and only one crop was obtainable in the year. Here a large surface of ground was thickly covered with Prangos plants that had been recently shorn and had maintained themselves from the first sowing between forty and fifty years ago. This fact was alluded to in a Note on Prangos in my letter to the Board of Agriculture. Near Molbec I endeavored to find out the Mountain on which the Wuzeer sowed Prangos but was wrong directed & lost my labor.

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The accounts of the qualities of the Prangos mentioned in other places were here confirmed but it was not known that it had been originally sown upon this locality. No pains were taken to extend its growth but it had acquired a considerable range and as its extreme limits were formed by young plants it was probably increasing. The road still continued to ascend W with a little northing. At a vast height there was occasion to admire the industry of the inhabitants of the Brok or Mountain Farm employed in bringing water by trenches taken from the bases of the snowy ridges for watering their fields during their short summer. As we ascended we experienced the keenness of the winter blasts and all the plants were withered. A variety of low dock with rounded leaves was most common and every base of its small bushes was surrounded by a knot of ribband of ice. Each was about an inch and a half in depth and about three inches in length or so far distant from the foot high at its loose end the other being almost in contact with the base of the bush.

Each band stood upon its edge and having prolonged itself as before mentioned from the stems

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stems returned either on a loop or formed a very acute angle. These loops were sometimes single but others touched and united by their sides. They were little thicker than writing paper generally transparent but narrow lines or ribs ran along their middle horizontally uniformly white and opaque. These ribbands were little thinner than paper and seemed to owe their origin to the Snow which having been melted off the surface of the ground generally had been concealed from the rays of the Sun in some degree by the foliage but I am wholly at a loss to account for the ribband form and loop. I should have been led to attribute the form to the action of the stones impelled through the melting Snow by the wind but this would not explain the divergence of the stones in every direction from the stems.

This appearance was alone observable on the southern faces of the Mountain the surface of the northern side being almost uniformly covered with Snow though not deeply. About a Mile and a half from the Brok Village the road descended gently towards another Rivulet which came from N20W & ran off to the Kurtse Choo.

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In about half a Mile the road again ascended skirting along the edge of the right bank of the rivulet just mentioned. Here I killed one of the large variety of Francolin which I was anxious to procure both on account of its skin and as food, having been disappointed in my expectation of receiving at Lang Kurtse a Sheep from the Cho of Tamis. In the first object I was disappointed through my attendant pulling off the Tail on his first seizing the bird in its struggle to escape. Along the path were patches from which the snow had melted but had afterwards become frozen. At one point a large block of green Jasper interrupted the road and horses were compelled to step over it. Whilst my horse was doing this his hind feet slipped at the very moment his fore feet fell upon a small slab of Jasper on the opposite side of the block. All his feet slipped from under him at once and he fell down on his side upon the face of the block which inclined towards the river on the summit of a surface between an abrupt slope and a perpendicular cliff which

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overhung the Rivulet of which the bed was formed by blocks of stone and half the channel was occupied by borders of ice. We both slid off the Jasper block into the Snow I being with my head foremost in rapid progress towards the bed of the Rivulet when the Horse got a little check and sinking into a little hollow I was replaced I know not how in the saddle and the animal made an effort to rise which by the rapidity of the slope was rendered impracticable. He then rolled fairly over me pressing me into the Snow. I kicked my foot out of the Stirrup but unluckily the rein caught my ankle & the horse sliding with his hind legs foremost rapidly approached the water pulling me after him. We had now fallen or rather rolled and slid about twenty feet and I saw nothing before me but destruction we being on the very brink of the cliff which was from 30 to 40 feet perpendicular when I sunk into a

little hollow and threw off the slackened rein. The Horse disengaged slid rapidly down the cliff but chanced to strike upon the face of a block

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block of stone little larger than his own bulk which projected over the verge of a steep cliff of about forty feet in height and was in fact the only stone of sufficient size in a considerable extent along the line of the slope to have retarded his fall. The animal was so frightened that for some seconds he could not make any effort to rise however after two or three ineffective exertions succeeded in regaining his feet and scrambled up the slope to the path. I escaped with a bruise on my loins and one on my knee and leg attended with some loss of skin from scraping on the stone but I found that the last three fingers of the left hand had their tips slightly frost-bitten although I had floundered in the Snow only for a short time and had not suffered from cold before my fall. This effect was I presume occasioned by the fingers being slightly bruised in the fall and immediately exposed to the influence of cold. On examining my compass I was mortified to find that it would not work a circumstance which deranged my survey of the road. The path was narrow in some places frozen in others muddy from being exposed to

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the rays of the Sun and every where at a great distance above the base of the Mountains & little surmounted. At length it terminated on a ridge which was not above half a Mile distant from the Pass direct from Oomba. This road if taken from Kurste is shorter than the other by Sankhoo by four Miles at least. From the height the descent to Lubbar was difficult through a depth of from one to two feet of Snow hiding the path & rendering it difficult to maintain one's footing. Encamped near a Rivulet and all hands were employed in collecting the rotten wood of the dwarf willow which grew in bushes near the banks. I plucked and drew the Francolin but carelessly tearing one of the large intestines the disagreeable taste of its contents infected the flesh whilst it remained hot after having been boiled but when cold the disagreeable flavor left it and the meat much resembled that of a young but full grown barn door fowl. This bird was about five pounds weight in its feathers and appeared to be a young one. Two brought to Leh for sale weighed each when stripped and drawn full five pounds. It is apprehended

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that this bird may readily be domesticated & be likely to afford an useful variety of Poultry to the farm yard. Its description has been given elsewhere.
Oct 16 – About two inches of snow fell in the course of last night in the valley but much more on the surrounding mountains and the dark clouds which now veil their summits threaten such a fall as may embarrass our march. On traversing this tract in August last the cries of the Marmot proceeded from every slope during the day time and this watchful animal was seen on the lookout either at the mouth of its burrow or perched upon the commanding station of a neighboring Stone but at present all is stillness and it would seem from the absence of the prints of feet at the entrance of their holes that they retired to their winter retreats before any snow had

fallen over them. The Natives report that on digging along the holes as many as thirty or even forty have been found asleep in one community warmly imbedded in dry grass.

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The Twajjee Rivulet was only mildly deep its edges frozen. During the ascent to the top of the pass Snow fell only at intervals in small hard and dry crystals. The path was very narrow and in some places wholly concealed. With difficulty the horses kept their legs along the face of the steep slope rendered very slippery from a couch of Snow concealing a coating of ice however we reached the verge of the descent towards Dras without accident. Here however we found the Snow from two to three feet in depth wholly masking the path naturally narrow running upon a ledge in the face of a steep cliff and overhanging a rough front of rock in some parts precipitous in others only abruptly sloping. Here we were obliged to unload all our horses and carry their burdens across the dangerous parts by men, an operation which delayed us for about two hours whilst the Snow fell thickly but still dry. The valley of Dras below us was at times

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wholly shut out from our view partly through the atmosphere being darkened by Snow & partly by the density of the clouds which rolled below us but now and then a break afforded us an indistinct glimpse of the valley. Having stayed till the dangerous portions of the road were cleared by the Caravan I proceeded leading my Horse until the diminished declivity admitted of riding though only at a foot's pace. Having reached the first house called Soogutteeal I was informed that Dras had been plundered by the Raja of Hussora and about eight hundred armed men during the preceding night of all the Cattle and of every thing of value that was portable and that three hundred of these plunderers had taken possession of the plain on which I had pitched my Tent in July. Some persons about half a Mile distant below were pointed out as Hussoras & others on various heights at a greater distance. The Snow fell in flakes which melted on reaching the ground

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and a few half naked men robbed of all their valuables were too much affrighted to give us any clear accounts. I directed some large stones to be laid on the ground on the front of the house and on these were piled the bales of merchandise as they came up, an alley being left between them and the wall of the house sufficient only to admit one man or rather a single rank of twelve in length. A Sipahzee was detached to a short distance on each flank as Sentry and as six Soldiers had come up I ordered them to discharge their Fusils. This was with difficulty accomplished at first from the Snow having completely melted the priming; however after clearing the pans repriming & pricking the touchholes about twenty discharges were made. I did this not only to render the pieces effective should they be called into use but also to advertise the

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plunderers of our arrival.

For if difficulty attended the going off of our Fire arms I was convinced that not a match of the Guns of the plunderers would remain lighted long enough to fire the priming and the firing of our Guns would be likely to impress them with a notion of the superiority of our means and perhaps induce them to decamp without attacking us. The object was fully answered for in about an hour a Wild Goat Hunter of the name of Khyoo whom I had before known came running towards our party, took up the flap of my coat and carried it to his forehead. He stated that the approach of our party had been announced by a Man from Sankhoo. This was at first disbelieved by the Hussoras who detached Scouts on horseback on commanding points to convey intelligence to the Hussora Raja of our approach whilst his men continued

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their work of plunder. The long lines of our Caravan consisting of above seventy horses was descried from a great distance filing down the side of the Mountains. Had there not been Snow the cavalcade would not have been so early perceivable even by the keen eye of a Mountaineer but the white ground not only rendered it discoverable as soon as a few horses had turned the first point of rock in their descent but gave to it an appearance of respectability which might have vanished or at least diminished on a nearer view. Information of the appearance of the Caravan confirming the previous account of the Sankhoo Man was speedily conveyed to the Hussora Raja but a few of the first mounted Scouts remained at no great distance below us when the report of our Guns convinced them that Europeans had really arrived. Matchlocks as before observed

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not going off through the heavy fall off Snow. The last Scouts announced our pressing on their rear and hurried towards their own party by setting out that they had nothing to do with us. We made the best disposition we could for the night pitching a Tent beyond each flank of the line of the house so as to give the idea of there being a considerable number of others behind it.

17 – The night passed quietly and in the morning accompanied by the Chummul or principal Land holder and Receiver of the Customs on the part of the Raja of Ladakh the principal persons well armed went about two Miles to the villages on the opposite or left bank of the Dras River to learn further particulars respecting the position of the Hussoras and of the mischief they had done. In a small room of a low house of one story we found the body of Mahmood Mullik the younger brother of Russool Mullik who had come on some business to Dras and hearing of the approach of our party had proceeded a day's march to

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to meet them. It was nearly light when an alarm was given of Dras being attacked. Muhmood Mullik was dressing himself when a light was unhappily brought into his apartment. Some Hussora people having ascended the terraced coop discovered the Mullik and leaning his rank one person fired a Matchlock through the hole which

serves as a Chimney and the ball with which it was loaded passing through the chest of the Mullik he fell dead. I directed the Meer to order what was necessary to be done with the body conformably to Moosulman customs, caused a bier and shroud to be purchased and hired a body of Porters to convey the corpse to the residence of Russool Mullik with a letter of condolence from me. It now appeared that the Raja or Cho of Hussora by name Shah Sooltan and whose residence is distant from Dras only four days' journey by certain narrow roads had been accompanied by a

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number of men amounting from 800 to 1000 differently armed had arrived in the middle of the preceding night but his intelligence was so correct as to have enabled his people to have scoured almost all the valuable moveables by an early hour in the following day. A party of the plunderers first proceeded to the Tent of the Kurphun or principal local Authority and having without noise cut the ropes they let it fall upon this Officer and immediately rolled him up in it so completely that he could not stand. When he was perfectly at their mercy they bound his arms and sent him off to the pass by which they descended. Another party consisting of seven persons broke onto the house of the Chummul seized him without knowing him and enquired of himself where he was, the Chummul said he was in the apartment below on which six went down leaving one to guard him. This man the Chummul knocked down and leaping from the top of the house escaped and hid himself in the Mountains.

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The party who went to seek for him finding a Kashmeeree of the name of Ladeek who had been addressed by some one in such a manner as to lead them to believe that he was the brother of the Chummul immediately slew him.

From a hasty examination it appears that the plunder taken off amounts to between 4 & 500 horses, from 8 to 900 head of Neat Cattle and from 8 to 100000 Goats & Sheep besides a large quantity of Copper Brass & Iron Utensils and of wearing apparel, the plunderers having stripped every individual of every portion of wearing apparel so that the peasantry appeared either in ragged garments which had been thrown by us of no value or in portions of felts or blankets which had served as stuffing under saddles or in parts of old Sacks. The Hussoras had with great care collected every Sack they would find and it was presumed that in the following day they would have filled them with grain had not the arrival

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of our party disconcerted their views. They had promised to themselves it would appear much enjoyment in playing a Match at Polo (a game of handy on horseback) on the Shugrun or playground at Dras and had most methodically prepared for it as on entering every house some of the depredators taking the saddles & bridles from their pegs saddled the horses & mounting at the door to proceed to other business of plunder whilst others of the same party drove off the Neat Cattle Sheep and Goats which in the winter are always housed. The poor inhabitants were reduced to a state of great suffering the cold having already set in so severely that water in a bowl close to my Mattress was frozen 3 inches thick in one night & scarcely any

individual had preserved a shoe or boot. The plunderers had broken up the water mills although this seemed an act of wantonness as they had purposed to take off the Grain.

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The Grain of the Crops of this season, some salt, a little fuel and dry fodder with a small portion of Cattle were all the property that remained to persons who had been a few days before comparatively wealthy. Altogether the plunder might be worth about £12000 to the Captors but a much larger sum would be required to replace it. Only two wounded were brought in to us to be dressed one man with a cut under the ear which from the bluntness of the weapon had failed to divide the Carotid. Another man had two wounds on his head one which had missed to sever the ear but the other in the top of the head had gone through the skull into the brain dividing the longitudinal Sinus but without any bad symptoms. Some of the Natives of Dras followed the plunderers in the hope that some of the Cattle might stray and be recovered by them. These

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people found that the rear guard was composed of from twenty to thirty persons mounted and armed with Matchlocks. The Meer who was personally known to the Chief of the plunderers pursued their steps under the hope of prevailing on him to give up part of his property but he was warned to keep off as the Hussorees believed that he was indicating the road to the Europeans who were they said close behind him. Finding him persevered two shots were fired at him which caused him to desist. It was stated that the choking by the fall of Snow in the night of the Pass beyond Loomdo had arrested their progress and that whilst one portion of the force endeavored to clear a road for the cattle by urging them into the Snow another better armed guarded the rear. It appeared to me not improbable that intelligence of the real strength of our party had been communicated and that the Hussorees might meditate an attack during their night and I therefore calculated our means of resistance. Our party were on the right bank and the Hussorees about three Kos

39a

Kos distant on the left separated clearly by the Stream which in general was breast deep and too strong in relation to the depth to be turned by a Man without a staff. A ford was shown to me but on pushing any Horse into it the water took him up to the saddle skirts and the bottom was so slippery that he fell with his head & neck under the water however a steady pull enabled him to recover and this trial convinced me that a passage by night would be very difficult notwithstanding the habits of the Baltees of traversing Rivers with their cloths knotted on their head and their steps strengthened by a Staff. The bridge of suspension of birchen ropes had been cut away but the Natives had unfortunately substituted another platform of trunks of trees covered with sod across a narrow cut of which the walls had only appeared on the falling of the rivers through the cessation of the rains and the melting of the Snows.

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The removal of this platform bridge would have ensured our safety but it was inconsistent with our character to suggest or to permit such an expedient to be adopted. It occurred to raise two small breast works of dry wall on each side of a narrow path that ran from the bridge to a point where it terminated on the edge of a high plain. From this eminence to cross fire would have completely commanded the bridge which one person alone could pass at a time and twelve resolute men could have prevented any one succeeding in traversing the water and in reaching the height but I found it too far from our baggage and therefore resolved that our stand should be made at the first station we had taken post at. The line of the baggage was shortened thickened and heightened and the floor of the alley between it and the house was raised so that the men in it could see in every direction. The space left would accommodate seven men in front and one on each flank. Three others were ordered to form a rear rank in the parapet of the house and I intended to take part on one flank

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with two guns which Mr. Guthrie was to load for me. The recruits furnished a guard on the side of the house from that of the Sipahsee Sentry and we had five Tibutee Dogs very vigilant and fierce. The conduct of these animals was as judicious as directed by us and performed with the utmost precision. Every new object or noise near our encampment was immediately challenged and the dogs frequently went out a quarter of a mile to examine the causes of alarm in every direction. Our presumptions however proved needless as the plunderers deemed it more wise to secure the booty they had obtained than to incur the risk which might attend the acquisition of a new seize. On the morning of the 18th the Kurphun returned to the great joy of the Peasantry with whom he is a favorite on account of the comparative mildness of his rule. When taken before Shah Sooltan the Hussora Chief the latter asked him how he came to confine the Ambassador whom he had sent to Ladakh to which he Kurphun replied that he

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he had not confined any one or prevented any one proceeding to Ladakh. He examined the gold box set with Turquoises which was suspended by a Necklace, opened a second of copper with the word Om engraved in the Lantza character on his breast and also the contents of the cylindrical copper Tube which is termed Manee Panee and is frequently turned from left to right whilst the Owner reports certain prayers. On learning that these articles were connected with his faith the Sooltan ordered them to be returned and giving him back his heirloom set him at liberty telling him what was somewhat superfluous to report what had happened to the Minister. The Raja directed all the Sheep and Goats to be returned but the interference of Hussora Wazeer prevented this act of liberality under the circumstances from being accomplished. The legend upon the Manee in silver raised letters in the Lantza style was Om Manee put "me hoom" the word put is western Tibutee or Poth in the language of Oortsung Ouchong, in Lhasa the word

41a

word pem or pe is substituted.

The Hussora Cho said that Wallee Joo a Kashmeeree had been sent by him to Ladakh for the purpose of representing that since the recent disputes between the Raja of Baltee and the Government of Ladakh the quantity of Salt which usually came to Hussora was so much diminished as greatly to inconvenience the inhabitants who could procure it from no other sources. He hoped that as soon as this should have been fully known at Ladakh seeing that there was no ground for hostility between this Country and Hussora that the Minister of the former Power would order all restrictions upon Salt to be removed and the commerce to be placed upon its former footing. That instead of this man being permitted to proceed he was detained as a prisoner at Dras and that his Chief Sooltan Shah was abused by some of the Officers of the Gov^t of Ladakh holding authority at Dras. The Kurphun disclaimed all

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interference in this affair. In the Papers found upon the person of Mahmood Mullik was a letter in which he was desired by his Brother to pay every attention in his power to my party and it was certified that seven horses stolen from Mutayen a frontier of Tibut in the Jagheer of the Mullik a short time before were stolen by the order of Shah Sooltan and then in his possession. It being understood by the Mullik that some Traders from Hussora were about to arrive at Dras he directed his brother to detain them until their Chief should return the horses. This latter part was not acted upon by Mahmood Mullik but it appeared that Wallee joo came to Dras about 3 weeks before with about a hundred Sheep and other articles to sell. He was then from [sic] something which escaped him as the Spy of Hussora and was taxed with this commission. The local Secretary of the Mullik said that he had neither been imprisoned nor coerced in any way nor prevented proceeding to

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to Ladakh although he had not announced himself as an Envoy from Hussora or having any business at Ladakh. If he was charged with any official communication it would have been his business to have notified the same to the Mullik whose duty it was to conduct an intercourse of his nature between any neighboring State who should send through the frontier under his charge any political message to Ladakh as was well known to the Chiefs of all the neighboring countries. However the pretended Envoy observing silence on this point forwarded a Servant to Hussora with news of his being detained at Dras & of the inhabitants or some official persons at this station having by words insulted his Master on which representation the Cho invaded Dras for the purpose of carrying the double insult. Here I shall leave this matter until I may meet the Mullik when I shall hear his account of this matter. I have lost 67 Sheep which

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were under the charge of the Chummul [who] would certainly not have adopted the measure of entrusting eighty Sheep to the charge of a man of whom I had ?considered?³ but a very indifferent opinion had it not been from constraint of

circumstances. When Mahmood my Servant by staying at Kashmeer twelve days instead of two and taking up 16 days in going backwards & forwards instead of eight had prevented my going to Zanskar, at which place I had arranged to have purchased and left Sheep under the care of the Zangla Lamma. ?Baffled?⁴ in this journey I saw no chance of obtaining a flock from Sheep of my own collecting except by leaving them at Dras and the Mullik as well as the Noona Kaloon had charged the Chummul to take equal care of my Sheep as if the animals belonged to either of these personages. Indeed the former drew up an agreement with his own hand and carried it to be signed by the Chummul and I do not accuse the latter

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of having vitiated his engagement although his conduct [illeg] matters has proved him a character utterly destitute of good principles. We might have met with a more grievous loss in the loss of our merchandise or of our lives in a contest with the Hussorees. Before we reached Puskyoom the habitual residence of the Carriers who had charge of our baggage from Leh to Dras the Kafila Bashee by name Hussun had stated that it was preferable to take the upper road by Lang Kurtse than that along the line of the Puskyoom and Dras Rivers. As I knew the upper road to be difficult I objected to this arrangement on the plea of the waters having so fallen as to render the latter line of road at least not dangerous however so much was urged in behalf of the former that I gave away. It was therefore with no small surprise that I learnt the wish of the Carriers to

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Cover N XIII

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45 [much of the next two pages illegible due to dark shadows over the text]

October

~~Puskyoom to~~

[illeg] the lower road first expressed? at? Puskyoom. The reason stated was [illeg] of Snow in the right which was only about two inches and of which the whole [illeg], had melted? within an hour after [illeg] and from the heat of the Sun at [illeg] I felt convinced that new Snow [illeg] not be long in such a quantity [illeg] could? arrest our progress for four or five days as was insisted [illeg]. Dwelling upon the argument first advanced by them [illeg, -ness?] of the lower road I [illeg] to abide by their new arrangement provided they would enter into [illeg, an?] engagement? to stand to my? [illeg] might sustain by taking the [illeg, lower?] road. To this they would not [illeg] and we took the upper road by which circumstance we were thrown? one day later whereas by the lower road we [illeg] Dras on

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the evening of the night on which the Hussorees plundered Dras. [illeg] resisted the application of [illeg] change of road principally in the [illeg] of the Carriers have? some? ?? motives of an interested nature.

And at Lang Kurtse [illeg]in circumstance occurred [illeg] ?? my suspicion although at that moment it seemed not to have any direct connection? with? the subject. A man appl-?? to me in the night for ?? and a Couching? Needle promised? to the Abba or Hakeem of ?? ?? Puskyoom. For the? [illeg] I enquired? at the latter place? [illeg] informed that he was at [illeg] he had pledged himself to [illeg] for ?? lost Bedstead? and w-? [illeg] promised a good ?? on ??? it to me. The present applicant? acknowledged that [illeg] Abba was? there? Dras on which I

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I said that I could not deprive myself of the pleasure of giving the instruments into his own hands at Dras to which station I was in progress and baring accident should reach in two days.

The man seemed scarcely satisfied although he said that my conduct was natural & proper. On enquiring at Dras I could not gain any intelligence of the Abba having been there and was therefore tempted to infer that both the Hind carrier & the Abba were privy to the invasion and that the latter knew of my bed having been carried off by the Chummul. I will send however the articles I promised from Kashmeer. When asked whether under their present circumstances the Carriers of Dras could convey our baggage to the accustomed stage in advance they answered in the affirmative if two days were allowed to them for collecting Horses from their neighbors who had not been plundered and in preparing clothes for themselves. In

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In concern for their misfortune this delay was complied with [and] on the second day finding [that] little progress was made in the preparations necessary it was reported to them that 15 horses were offered by a Kashmeeree Trader who had brought Rice for sale and was desirous to take part of our baggage and to send horses for the remainder. The carriers of Dras requested that his arrangement might not take place as it would break up their custom of carrying up to a certain point & give the Kashmeeree Carriers a precedent which might prove prejudicial to the general interests of Dras. The offer of the Kashmeeree was rejected and a bargain made by which instead of 4 Rs per Horse Kashmeeree to the opposite side of the Ghat it was agreed to give 5 Rs Kashmeere. The aggregate with a small reserve was given to

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the Kurphun and sent to various Contractors who refused now to go on the plan if a report being spread by Kashmeerees that an army of Sikhs were on their march from Kashmeer to meet & give battle to our party. They had escaped with life they said from the Hussorees but they might not be so fortunate in the instance anticipated and therefore they declined engaging in our Service. On the following day the Chummul stated that the Carriers [were] concerned the Mullik would be angry with them for not having taken the body of his brother to Sheen instead of

leaving it to a Stranger to give orders to this effect and indeed they apprehended that he would attribute the death of his brother to them or at least make use of it as an excuse to seize their Horses. It was in vain for us to represent that they had apparently trifled with

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with us for eight days in which period we could have procured Horses from Kashmeer. The [illeg] situation alone absorbed their whole attention although they were not inattentive to our consideration for them. At one time the whole mass were determined to congregate to Baltee at another to proceed to Ladakh and lay their grievances before the Raja. The Kurphun advocated the latter measure and told the Males [sic] with the Chummul at their head set off for Ladakh where their complaints will not meet with redress. It was made out that the Chummul had prevented the Carriers coming to a candid conclusion with us in the first instance to answer views of of [sic] his own. Under these circumstances the Meer taking five Horses from me made the best of his way to Soonamurg

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where he met 50 men and 50 horses forwarded by the Mullik on some suspicion [he] entertained of our embarrassed situation. The arrangement adjusted by the Meer with Seedik Rebona an agent of the Mullik was that we should pay 9½ Rs Kashmeeree for each horse to Kashmeer subject to the decision of the Mullik as to the fairness of the terms. On the 28th the horses and party came up and we prepared to march on the 29th.

It is difficult to foresee what will be the fate of Dras but if the inhabitants desert it entirely the difficulties of travelling on this rugged road will be greatly increased. The Raja of Baltee will seize the Country and his oppressive disposition will lay commerce under restraints to which its projects may not prove an ample compensation. Or it may be taken by Runjeet Singh who may colonize it

48a

it with Kashmeerees in which case Ladakh will lose its interest in this frontier. From the Kurphun it appears that the whole District of Dras yields not more than a clean Revenue of Rs 800 or about £100 Sterling of which one moiety goes to the Raja of Ladakh & the other to the Mullik of Kashmeer. Perhaps both these joint proprietors might be induced to grant a right in perpetuity to the district to a new colony who would engage to pay the rent mentioned regularly? However suspicions might attach to the plan but if these could be overcome I see no better situation for a colony of Indo-Britons. The District would support as many families as would give employment to five hundred Males who

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might be so organized as to defend themselves against all exterior enemies [illeg] then a few years carryover most profitable Commerce through the products of the Soil and as Carriers and Manufacturers of certain articles of home consumption of too little value to bear being imported. The subject is delicate and must be sounded a ? a

distance⁵. I had lost four Sheep out of a small flock coming from Ladakh to this place and as I here found from the Rot contracted by pasturing them on a piece of marshy land near Leh for a few days. The condition of the whole flock being thus diseased was in itself disagreeable but furnished an opportunity of trying the effects of the Prangos on this complaint. I resolved to carry several horse loads of this plant

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plant along with me but difficulties occurred. Not a Sack had escaped the search of the [illeg] Hussorees but the inhabitants of the neighboring districts on hearing of the disasters of Dras gradually dropped in with bags and articles of clothing. However they caused me to pay about one third more than the same article would have cost me when taken to the Capital. The seeds of the Prangos seemed to [be] more strongly impregnated with the peculiar smell of the plant than its leaves and I therefore resolved to obtain these if practicable and accordingly offered a good price for them but although the Cattle were almost all gone few persons were disposed

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to break up their Stacks to search for seeds on account of the mischief the Snow would do to the Hay when entering it in its disturbed state. By going into the Prangos grounds on the Mountains I found many seeds yet remaining on the heads which I collected and encouraged my Servants to collect [sic] at a premium and by degrees some of the Natives engaged to procure them at so good a rate of wages as could not be realized in any other manner and had I not been compelled to depart through the arrival of horses for my baggage two or three days sooner than I expected I should have filled every Sack I had with Seeds. However I took only two horse loads of Hay & loaded another with Seeds. I should not have attempted this experiment had I not seen

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seen on mixing seeds and hay that the Sheep uniformly preferred the former to the latter.

At Dras I placed my Sheep in the house on the 18th at which time four were sinking fast and fed them entirely on Prangos till the 29th on the morning of which day I found the whole not only alive but in tolerably good health.

To undertake the treatment of a flock of rotten Sheep which travelling through Snows, traversing deep cold and rapid Streams, and climbing steep & rugged Mountains by long marches held out no very promising prospects of success however aware of the importance of this experiment to the

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interests of Agriculture I was resolved to spare neither labor nor expense in giving to the trial the best chance of which circumstances would admit.

29 October – The Man whose brain was wounded was nearly well the wound being almost wholly closed & no bad symptom existing but another case occurred which gave me both concern & trouble. A Sipahzee had been seized with Quotidian

Intermittent which for reasons I cannot understand he concealed for several days. When it was known the usual treatment was prescribed but having adopted one part he neglected the other having more faith in a medicine with the exhibition of which I was kept unacquainted. When desired to see him by the Apothecary I found his Wrists without pulse his countenance

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shrunk like a man dying with Cholera accompanied by an inability to retain any thing on his Stomach except Water. I put him on horseback supported by Men but in a short time he became unable to support himself & was carried by a comrade man of the Kashmeeree Parties consenting to carry a sick Man.

Oct 29 – It has elsewhere been stated that the general run of the valley of Imbab or Dras is SW & NE the former being in the direction of Kashmeer.

Our road after having crossed the Berokhee Choo on the left bank skirts the Dras River on each side of which there is a path. That on the right bank crosses by a narrow bridge which was broken down just before the Hussora invasion and was thrown across a narrow straight or ghat

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a Mile distant from the last house to the W in Dras. At about 2 Miles from the last village in the valley a large Rivulet enters coming from the SW falls into the Dras River through its right bank whilst the latter takes a turn to the NW but at about half a quarter of a Mile onward comes from the W and then again a little southerly. The channel is formed by claystone rocks excessively hard but worn into pillars and cavities by the force of the stream which crashes over block cliffs with great force. The water where of considerable depth reflects a blue color of such intensity as would almost induce a suspicion of it having Copper in solution but nothing discovered in the neighboring rocks favors the supposition of their containing this Metal. These rocks seem to be clay stone but the highest ranges are calcareous. The valley is very narrow and the face of the rocks is studded though sparingly with dwarf Thekin towards their summits and the common Tater Honey suckle in small tufts is found though rarely

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near their base. At about four Miles distant from Dras is a narrow valley on the northern side of which is a cluster of rubble stone houses not exceeding eight or ten constituting the hamlet of Pandras or Prandas. The greater part of the plain is in grass but was apparently when there were more inhabitants almost wholly under the plough. Ners Yan Karmo Barley and Poroh or Pruh Wheat are alone cultivated it being here too cold for Wheat. From Dras to this place the southern face of the northern Mountains is most largely covered with Prangos indeed to such an extent that I conceive under prudent management the vicinity of Dras might support a hundred thousand head of Sheep and Goats. At Prandas the Prangos Hay is piled on large blocks of Stone with more regularity than has been observed elsewhere but has been cut before it was fully ripe as the Seeds are small and not open.

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In reference to obtaining a future supply of the seed of this plant should the large quantity I have collected fail to reach England or not vegetate it may be observed that it will be best for a person to collect it about the twelfth of October when enough may be found on the uncut Stems to load many Horses but at Kashmeer those seeds which have been partially eaten or wholly destroyed by insects should be picked out and thrown away. A little beyond Pandras the River comes from the Southward through a flat covered with low Willows and Thorns and continues in this direction till we reached Mutayen. The length of this day's march is estimated by the Natives at eight Kos and I apprehend this estimate is nearly correct but I had not the means of ascertaining the distance with any tolerable degree of correctness owing to the measurer suffering so much from the cold as to be unable to undertake the task and I was the less solicitous on this subject as Mr Trebeck was speedily to follow me with a Measurer in whom more dependence would be placed. Without much previous consideration Travellers in such a country as

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as this. My stock of black lead pencils was exhausted but I counted upon that in my Notebook from its length lasting till I should reach Kashmeer and had the mortification to find a very large portion of it hollow and to add to my disappointment my ink so soon froze as to prevent my using it a substitute for the pencil. Mutayen is a miserable hamlet of six or eight houses of rubble building promising very little accommodation. However the whole of my party save myself and the Sipahes found shelter from the Snow which sometimes froze and sometimes melted. I sent two Brothers for the sick Sipahes and caused his comrades to prepare some Tea against his arrival which was not done with an alacrity that much recommended the feeling of the Goorkhas for each other. Although the pulse of my patient could not be felt at the wrist yet by hot stones placed to his feet and to his stomach whilst his hands were held near to the fire he appeared somewhat better

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better than in the morning. At Mutayen a little Barley and Buckwheat is raised and though cold in winter the atmosphere is said to be hot in summer except when the wind blows or the sky is clouded. Wood was charged at a very high rate and the inhabitants said that travelers would have many difficulties to encounter should they desert Mutayen an event held out as probable; however though the dwellings and the clothes of the inhabitants indicated much poverty and wretchedness yet the herds and flocks of Neat Cattle and of Goats and Sheep were considerably numerous & in excellent condition. Here the Prangos stopped and not a single plant was seen beyond the station. The fall of Snow in the morning was found to be not as great as was expected from the appearance of the preceding evening but the ground was very slippery from the frost. One of my Sheep which was very weak was brought to me with spasms and great trembling the night of the 29th in consequence of being nearly strayed in fording the river however by placing it near the fire it recovered and having eaten

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eaten some Prangos was well enough to travel the following morning.

30th The direction of the Road was [blank] and we started early having to cross the Ghat on which much Snow was supposed to have fallen. With much difficulty I hired four men to carry the sick Sipahzee in a blanket swung under a pole for the next two Stages.

At Mutayen the Mullik ordered a Sheep and some Butter to be brought to me but through rather straitened for food we could not avail ourselves of his attention to our probable wants.

The road skirted the River which came generally from the West receiving first the [blank].

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At about [blank] from Mutayen was a place partially covered with Snow and called [blank]. The grass with which it is covered in summer is said to be in considerable repute for strengthening horses worn down by fatigue. Here we began to ascend and followed the course of the River sometimes on one side & sometimes on the other till we reached three houses covered with Snow so as to appear as excavations in the Mountain and in which we were told that the Meer's party had passed a night. This wretched Serabee is called [blank].

Still pursuing the course of the stream we reached a point at which it seemed to ooze from under the base of a mountain and this was counted its origin. Its stream at Mutayen rapid broad and about 2 feet deep was frozen at the edges and hunks and loose flakes of ice floated in the current.

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Near the ascent my Sheep were unwilling to swim across and with the assistance of Suddik Rehna the Kafila Bashee and of others we carried them over on our horses by which process my eyeshade attached to a buttonhole of my coat was loosened dropped into the stream and was lost at the very moment I was about to make use of it. The Sun however only shone at intervals and by keeping an extempore shade with a lock or two of my horses Mane I reached the foot of the pass without my eyes suffering. Continuing on a level but narrow valley covered with about two feet of snow & very soon after we had lost the course of the Dras or Mutayen River we reached some large blocks of Stone and a spring of water breaking out from under a Mountain rippled in a very small stream for a few yards with a descent to the SW

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whereas the Dras River flowed in a direction exactly opposite. The former was soon joined by a much larger stream from the S issuing from under a bed of Snow and of Ice & proceeding from a Mountain called the Wagga Suggre of which the pyramidal peak is said never to lose its coating of Snow. Shortly afterwards crossing the joint stream we came to a crooked ascent of rock partly solid & partly formed of piled stones coated with ice. This was so steep and difficult as to require the constant attention of two men to each horse one leading & the other holding the tail to urge

him on and to steady him in his course. This leads by a narrow path to the summit of the Pass called Kantit by P Desideri and Kotul or the high pass of Zojee Lha or Baltul by the Tibutees. The stream runs in an excessively deep cliff formed by a perpendicular face of rock about three hundred feet high on the southern side and by a high and abrupt slope

Baltul more correctly is a small empty house at its western foot for the accommodation of travelers

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slope of the northern side on which however there is as much soil as supports a few Birch Trees.

The pass consists on the Tibut side of an ascent and of a stream. A redoubt or two-- Teralitto Towers-- would completely command the line of valley facing the ascent whilst the stream would be guarded by means depending upon the season. Flowing the summer and a large portion of the winter months the cleft is so blocked with Snows as to admit only of the passage of water under it. This kind of bridge for a long time is almost in contact with the water so that a human being could not pass under it. In the stream of the Wagga I shot two Teal of which one falling in the Snow was secured but the other though nearly dead was carried by the current under

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a tongue of ice which projected nearly across the channel and seemed so thin as likely to be broken by a blow with the butt of my gun but so far from this experiment succeeding the might of three ponies and as many men brought upon the ice to break it down was equally fruitless. When the waterway is clear as may sometimes happen such a torrent rushes along its channel as to render a passage down it impracticable but even supposing this difficulty overcome by some extraordinary season a pile of stones let loose from the summit would destroy any force that should attempt the passage. In a word the pass of Zojee Lha in the Tibut side might be rendered impracticable to our enemy from that country at a trifling expense and with a very few defenders. The path ascends rather rapidly but for no great distance to a height where a view is gained of a dell

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of vastly greater depth which leads into Kashmeer in which province the Pass is situated. The ascent from Mutayen had been so gradual and easy that the Traveller was by no means prepared for such a contrast as the great descent before him presents. The path is planned in zigzags and the first part was in half melted Snow covering a bed of ice commanding the most unremitting caution to prevent a slide which might hurry the passenger into the River. [blank] [Not with] standing the upmost care on my part I had no small difficulty in getting out of the way of my horse which I lost when he slipped over the oblique surface. At one point of the descent the horses were

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were unloaded carried on the backs of men & then though accustomed to the steepness of the path scarcely maintained their footing. I was cautioned not to stop except at certain points on account of the frequent falling of fragments of rock of a shaly texture but did not conceive that there was much danger from this cause. The rocks below were primitive and of limestone clothed to the snowy summits with Pines so regularly as if they had owed their uniform line to the hand of Man whereas the seeds had fallen into the veins or ledges of slightly separated strata. Generally the base was skirted by dwarf birch and the upper portion of the Mountain was covered by Firs but in some parts this order was reversed the Birch springing out of the Snow. In this extraordinary forest extraordinary from the great steepness

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steepness of the supporting surface were winding alleys which had served as roads for avalanches of Snows and of which there were many traces.

Passing over deep beds of half melted old Snow in which our horses were very impatient from sinking up to their belly we came to a side of a mountain ridge of which the surface stripped of Snow from the heat of the Sun was covered with a coating of vegetation contrasting strongly with the bare sterile surface to which our eyes have been so long accustomed. A large Stream from the S falls into the River here called the Kana puthee from Wagga Suggee. This southern branch proceeds from [blank]

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[blank] days journey distant in the Kashmeer Pergunna of [blank]

We are now in Kashmeer and although the vegetable surface is brown and withered the air feels mild and even warm compared to that of the climate from which we have just escaped. The Seed heads of Sentrions are here mixed with these of the Wormwood and the rich black vegetable earth is torn up in many places by Bears in their search for the small root of the Daucus Sylvestris or wild Carrot. Here the bruins of Dras have probably repaired as I found no trace of them on the late Snows and in Kashmeer they return not to their winter quarters until the ground is covered by at least two feet of Snow.

We encamped in a forest of Pine Birch Willows and a Tree having

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a bark like the cork but with which I am unacquainted and which had lost its leaves. Fuel was now in abundance & we made such Fires as Tibutees never witnessed. The march had been as reported eight Kos and though Night had set in my Sheep were not come up from which delay I anticipated that some misfortune had befallen them. On a sudden my Hindoostanee Shepherd presented himself with a tale of calamity of which I could make out no more than that a Sheep of great beauty I had bought of a Chomo or religious female at Kalatze had been killed by the kick of a horse and that the whole flock had been left by my fear

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struck Servant on the Tibut side of the Kotul. Several Horsemen were dispatched in search of them as from the weak state of many of them & the attacks of Hyenas it was too probable that my experiment as the effects of the Prangos in curing the Rot would be frustrated.

The Moon shone occasionally though sometimes obscured by Snow clouds and in the middle of the night I was gratified at hearing that they had been recovered. The Shepherd had feared that he should not be able to bring them across the Pass before late at Night and therefore abandoned them to their fate although several loaded horses & their conductors were behind him.

31 – A great number of both large and of small trees especially of firs were observed to have been broken off near the

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ground or to have been torn up by the roots and what was remarkable enough they had fallen uphill uniformly to the North.

The direction of the Valley was East and West and from the base of the southern hills to the point at which the destruction had begun exceeded little a hundred yards. The mischief could not have been effected by lightning as the fall was in a horizontal line of many yards & none of the trees were split, nor could it have been produced by Avalanches from the northern face of the southern hills as all the trees in the line of fall had not been thrown down. Perhaps it might have been the consequence of violent winds from the opposite directions of East and West meeting and the joint current going off to the North the range being considerably

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distant. The northern face of the southern range flanking the valley though uniformly steep was abundantly clothed with Pines whilst the southern face of the northern range of a declivity comparatively gentle and somewhat thickly coated with Soil was most sparingly sprinkled with trees and these of a less luxuriant growth. In this valley which little exceeded a quarter of a mile in breadth there was pasturage sufficient for large bodies of Cattle and in some parts of a very good kind. Here I found the greater Water Plantain in abundance and referring to the popular opinion entertained in Russia of its efficacy in preventing Hydrophobia after the bite of rabid animals I collected much of the seed which I purpose to forward to Calcutta submitting the propriety of a small portion being sent to every civil & military station in

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in Hindoostan for the use of the public. In a convenient situation in the Pine forest of the plain of the valley were two houses built of logs for the accommodation of travellers erected in the time of the Doorane[e] rule. The pillars were formed by logs of about 5 feet being placed across each other so as to make a hollow square & the logs were let into each other at the angles whilst the roof was made of shingles covered with grass producing altogether a substantial asylum in a situation where fuel was in plenty. A long ledge of deep and black soil was interposed between the

common plain and the river lower than the former yet several feet higher than the latter. It bore

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the marks of having been in cultivation and I learned that it had yielded 84 for 1 of Buckwheat but the house to which it belonged having been overthrown by an Avalanche the spot was abandoned. A low flat on the left bank of the River formerly in forest is covered by trunks of trees destroyed by Snow slips. However I was much surprised to observe how very small the space occupied by the roots of firs was in comparison to the length of the Stem. The Pines were of several kinds but though tall the branches were of no great horizontal spread. As we proceeded westward I observed the apricot in its wild state to be common & in one place saw the Ash. The tract of land between the Zoojee Lha and an old fort close to Soonamurg would form a suitable

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addition to a colony at Dras in respect to wood for Doors Tables Chests &c and also for summer pasturage. At an early hour we reached Soonamurg a hamlet of five or six houses the lower apartments of a rubble stone the upper of log with pitched roofs of shingles coarsely covered with grass. This is placed on the right bank of the River from the Kana puthee & the [blank] and takes the name of the Sinde. Here I received a letter from Raja Runjeet Sing acknowledging a letter from me in behalf of Quaja Shah Neas and of a Postal & apparatus &c from me. He had in compliance with its contents provided to

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the Quaja an Annuity of Rs 5000.

Soonamurg yields Barley and Buckwheat. Its Neat Cattle though small are well formed but its Sheep are much inferior in fleece to those of Tibet.

31. Our March was only about 3 Kos & its direction had been almost wholly westerly. Here two Sheep were brought as a present to me along with fruit and cakes from the Mullik and from Quaja Shah Neas and in a letter from Soorut Singh announced that he was departed from Diwan Motee Rawa, the Lombardar of Kashmir to attend our party and see that supplies of all kinds were duly forwarded. In answer it was requested that Soorut Singh would not take the trouble of proceeding farther than one stage from Kashmir. The road ran along the Sind which sometimes winding preserved a general course between S & W but more inclined to the latter. At about a Mile and a half from Soonamurg the road was confined to a mere path in the

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right bank. In its course from the village two streams fall into the River the first about a mile distant from Soonamurg came from the right or North about [blank] Kos in length and at a Mile & a half another from the south called [blank] and [blank] in length. The Gut [cut?] through which the River ran was formed by steep Mountains on each side & was called Hung. We dismounted and for about two miles

the road was extremely difficult for horses on account of the line of path lying in a surface composed of fragments of Rock which had descended in avalanche. Indeed to a person not much acquainted with Mountain roads this might be supposed impracticable however our horses escaped with a few wounds and bruises none of which proved serious but I apprehend that there is no portion of road between Hindoostan and Chinese

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Toorkistan that is practicable for horses more likely to produce accidents. The descent of Avalanches is frequent & one which happened six years ago if not exaggerated is extraordinary enough.

Two men had taken refuge in a hollow under a large Mass of Stone for the night during which a Snow slip from the opposite side completely blocked up the opening and all the effort of the travellers proved ineffective for their enlargement. On the melting of the Snow ten weeks afterwards the men were discovered by some travellers. One had died but the other though in a state of great emaciation and debility was still alive. At the time of the accident these people had only along with them for way provision about 12 pounds of thick wheaten cakes and an equal weight of raw Onions. Upon this slender stock and upon Snow they subsisted until one died and the survivor was reduced to a condition of insensibility. No other tolerably straight line of communication between Tibut and Kashmeer has been discovered and as there is an abundance of stones either

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either actually loose or which [could] easily be detached from the parent rock at a great height the pass might be defended by a small body of men out of the reach of shot against an army. Soon after this difficult road is passed the path still very scabrous runs through a forest in a dell along the right bank of the River. The trees are of various kinds amongst which I recognized the Walnut of two kinds differing principally in the nut of one having a thick and the other a thin shell. The Horse Chestnut was of great size and in abundant bearing of which I was told the fruit is given to Sheep in the winter. Here were also the Sycamore, the Poplar, Aspen and though rare the Ash, Apricot Crab, Pear and Pence with many others of which the bark did not convey to me sufficient information of their families and their leaves were fallen. A red currant or rather one which had black fruit but possessed neither the flavor or the leaf

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of the former was found here along with the rough red Gooseberry and the Hazel the latter both in bush and tree. The Currant by cultivation might soon be rendered worthy a place in the garden from its present juiciness and the good size of the fruit and of its bunches but the Gooseberry is small, fair in fruit and rich oily in seeds. After the forest is passed a cultivated slope appears called Guggungeer [in another hand Ganderbal] where there are a few houses. Here the Son of the Mullik a boy of about ten years old had come to meet our party and a Pundit who offered a present of money on the part of Jawahee Mull was almost importunate on finding this

rejected that I should at least accept of refreshments. A little farther on I went into a house for the purpose of examining the economy of several families of Bees which resided in cavities on the wall and of which the fineness of the day had tempted some individuals to take the air. Of this matter the particulars are reserved for another place.

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As we advanced the valley opened and there was much land under cultivation the crops consisting of the Panicum Italicum, the Amaranthus Gangeticus Barley and Wheat & Turnips the climate not being yet warm enough for Rice. Still the character of the northern face of the southern range being principally covered with Firs and Birch continued to prevail whilst considerable variety was found on the southern face of the northern mountains but in proportion as the valley opened the difference in the productions diminished. All the three varieties of barberry were found here viz. the red & black oval and the globular kinds but owing perhaps to the advanced state of the season the acidity of the two former was lost and the last had a most disagreeable bitterness. Here I saw a Leper affected with the Lepra Tuberculosa in a most advanced stage the fingers and toes rotting off but only a single instance of Goitre although the Valley was deep and narrow and the subject was not a Native. Whether the influence of vegetation on the Atmosphere as affecting the human system in respect to this

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this disorder has been sufficiently looked into I am unacquainted but I have met with the complaint in its greatest extent in valleys of which the sides were composed of naked rocks. There were several small villages on our road & the curiosity of the inhabitants brought out every age & as I presume every class although there seems to be little distinction as far as similarity of appearance in dress could warrant the inference of equality of condition.

Near Gondh a village in which Rassool Mullik resided our party were met by Soorut Singh on horseback along with three or four inferior officers also mounted and a body of about thirty Sikh infantry armed with Matchlocks Swords & Shields. The dress of the latter differed little from that worn in the Punjab with the exception of a handkerchief of silk ordinarily of a pink color tied round the back part of the head. These were young and though their persons were rather tall yet their limbs were ill furnished with muscle and formed a striking contrast with the robust frames of the Kashmeeree porters who attended us. Soorut Singh was a well looking man of about thirty

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thirty years of age cleanly dressed and with a Bow and Arrows & a Sword an attendant carrying his Matchlock. The latter was made after one of the fabric of Bhikawalpoor by an artist of Kashmeer to whom it did ?great aid?⁶ The barrel cost 40 Kashmeeree Rs & the silver mounted ornaments & stock about 50 more. The name?? of the S?? was [blank]

His Horse was rather small and light in bone and had he not been overloaded in his neck would have had some pretensions to neatness of form. The Horses on which his attendants were mounted were Tookees of which one was outrageously vicious. Soorut Singh in retaining the Bow the former favorite arm of the Sikhs had adopted the stocking and the slipper of the Kashmeerees and had borrowed the silver mountings of the Dooranees for his horse furniture. He was originally a Hindoo of Dundahar.

His Officer presented a present of Coin and would not be satisfied until I took one Rupee from a handful. He was accompanied by the Mullik who appeared much affected by the

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the loss of his brother. Preceded by the new Escort our party we went to the House of the Mullik consisting of three stories and on the second were ushered into a matted clean apartment furnished with a Chimney on the hearth of which was a large fire of firewood a luxury to which we had been long strangers and of which the heat compelled us to throw open the wooden curiously constructed latticed window covered with white paper. We were first regaled with sweetened Tea and afterwards with roasted Chickens & venison from which the garnish of silver leaf might have [been] dispensed with. The accompaniments were piles of their wheaten Cakes and chili Sauce & the repast was concluded by Salted Tea much better than any I met with in Tibut on account of the freshness of the butter and the influence of the Milk. Although it was evening when we arrived another repast of Palou was considered indispensable notwithstanding our remonstrances to the contrary. The conversation was of a more general and instructive nature than is usual to which I was perhaps company by putting questions connected with Agriculture.

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The Mullik had been informed of the intention of the Hussora Cho to invade Dras but letters from Ahmeed Shah the Raja of Baltee were of a nature so friendly as to tranquillize him and he now believes that the expedition was undertaken without the concurrence of Ahmeed Shah. He had represented the occurrence to the Diwan Motee Ram who stated that a force should be sent against Hussora but at the present season this could not take place on account of the Snow.

• Management of Bees

Every Cottage in this District --the District of Lou in the eastern part of Kashmeer-- has several hives of Bees in his house and some as many as ten at the same. When the house is built a space is left extending quite through the wall which being lined with clay made up with Rice Chaff that is with the husk of paddy about an inch thick leaves a hollow horizontal cylinder about 11 inches in diameter and when closed at both ends about 20 or 22 inches in length. The end which is near to the apartment is closed with an earthen dish a little convex

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convex externally but by means beating rendered flush with the surface of the wall and the outer ends of the cylinder is closed in the like manner a circular hole a little more than half an inch in diameter being previously made through the dish as a doorway. The honey is taken about the end of September and the mode of doing it is worthy of imitation. The warmest part of a warm clear day is chosen for this operation which is begun by removing the door within the apartment after which a wisp of dry Rice Straw on which are placed some pieces of red hot Charcoal is introduced with caution so as not to burn the bees or to injure the Combs. The smoke is blown towards the Bees but care is taken that the Straw does not take fire. Incommoded by the Smoke the Bees escape by the opening in the front and the Combs are cut down from the roof by a short Sickle and the bees which adhere to them carefully brushed off. It is calculated that about a hundredth part of the Bees are destroyed by this process but

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but for the support of the remainder during the winter about two or three pounds of Honey are left in the Hive into which the Bees return as soon as it is cleared from the Smoke. An old Swarm is said to be much more productive than a new one and with due attention may be preserved for ten or fifteen years. The quantity of Honey differs much but ordinarily it seems to be abundant and it is customary to take it every year. In consequence of the Bees being literally thus domesticated they acquire a mildness of character far superior to that of those of Europe by which many [bee] lives are saved annually and perhaps this confidence may give an increase of industry and from the situation of the Hive Mice and other enemies may be kept at a distance. There is neither shade for the doorway nor any ledge for the Bees to light upon. During the winter which is at least of six months duration it is not customary to supply any other

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other food than a small quantity of Honey and it is stated that a family seldom dies except of old age. Buckwheat is a favorite crop in the country where Bees are largely reared and would seem to afford an abundant source of Honey & Wax. Honey is sold at from 5 to 8 pounds per Kashmeere Rupees of about the value of from 18 to 20. There is nothing in the management of the Honey itself deserving of notice but its quality at least that of such as befallen under my notice equals in purity of taste that of the best Honey of Nurhome. The Bee is scarcely as large as that of Europe but somewhat larger than that domesticated in Gurwhal & Kumaon. It is presumed that our farmers and cottagers by adopting a similar plan of domesticating Bees might materially increase their annual returns of profit at a very easy outlay of Capital.

Management of Walnut Trees

Walnuts are said to bear in this

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this country are said to bear [sic] on the third or fourth year after being sown. In some instances they are engrafted by scion but more commonly are suffered to

remain in the state of wildings. Engrafting increases the size of the Nuts and diminishes the thickness of the Shell. If it be perceived that the Tree bears not freely the branches are cut down to within a few feet of the leading shoot and the loppings with the leaves are piled within the forks of the tree the operation being performed whilst the leaf is at its full growth and before it begins to fade. The advantages are 1st the procurement of a certain quantity of fuel in the branches 2^d of a supply of winter food for Sheep said to be more nourishing and strengthening than grass. 3^d The increase and amelioration of the Crop. During the year immediately following the lopping shoots with leaves are alone thrown on it but in the second there is a crop of fruit which surpasses in amount that which would have been furnished in the

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the aggregate of the years of lopping & of those sourced in year. The practice indeed become so general that after the bearing is seen to be falling off the tree is again subjected to the lopping and this happens it would seem on an average every fifth year or thereabouts. The branches are rendered unsightly by knobs but whether any or what influence is produced upon the growth or quality of the wood of the trunk and of the principal branches I have not been able to ascertain. Natural Grass is found in great quantity but is seldom cut for winter store for Cows Sheep or Goats the dry leaves of Trees being much preferred for this purpose and the trees selected for the object are Willow, Walnut Mulberry & Elm of which the first is the favorite. Oil is extracted from the Walnut both for culinary use and for burning in lamps. Some Silk is wound but the peasantry are little inclined to enter into new employment for their

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industry which might eventually become new sources of oppression from their rulers.

It deserves to be examined by our farmers whether the leaves of Hedgerow trees meet the application just mentioned and whether any mischief does or does not result from it to the timber for if it be not injurious in this respect at least it furnishes an additional resource in forage.

On the first of Nov the sick Sipahee died. He had been carried the former day by two Men in a blanket and appeared in the evening somewhat stronger but the Pulse had never been perceptible at the wrist since he had with an idea of hastening his cure taken a large dose of red Pepper pads boiled in Butter. This had produced great inflammation of the tongue and sinuses and it was obvious that the Stomach had suffered in the same manner.

The distance from Soonamurg to Gondh is said to be about 8 Kos. Recapitulation. From Dras to Mutayen 8 Kos. From Mutayen to the Kashmeer foot of Zooje Lha 8 Kos, to Soonamurg

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3 Kos and to Gondh 8 Kos.

The Mullik accompanied our party as far [as] a bridge across the Sind about 2 Miles the land was laid out in terraces but the divisions were mainly narrow ridges of earth and grass. He had been deprived he said of about a thousand Khiermans of Rice annually and of a large portion of land granted to him by the Dooranees for his official management of the importation of Shawl Wool and of other business with Tibet. The direct consequence of this was a large portion of land immediately thrown out of cultivation and in the whole of this day's journey not more than one fifth of the land formerly under the plough was now cultivated. The valley opened a little in a direction more to the westward and Walnut Apricot Apple Pear Cherry & Mulberry trees had been planted but the forest abounded with wild apricots of which the fruit was said to furnish food to the inhabitants of Kashmeer for two months every year. There are four kinds of Wilding Apples called Trela to wit of which one is white & three red

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The white is named Trela Sufed. This is about the size of a Walnut round smooth with a long stalk juicy and sweet. One kind of red Trela is about the same size with the former with rather a larger stem more oblate at the ends and marked with depressions running from the eye to the stem as if it had been tied with strings. The stem is rather longer than that of the white kind and it is pleasantly acid. It is named Trela Khardar. The trees of this kind are said to live for above a hundred years. It therefore appears to me likely that they may furnish a kind of stock that they may be more hardy than those of Britain subject as they now are to Canker and to other diseases which abridge their existence.

Our Stage terminated at Mamur a small village on a height on the northern side of the valley about half a Mile from the River. The days since we entered the valley of Kashmeer have been warm but the night have been freshly still however the trees wear only the livery of Autumn and remind me of the October

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of Britain.

2^d Nov Still following the course of the Sind after about three Miles the Valley opened still more continuing to the South and here the cultivation of Rice begun. Our stage was at Noonur about 8 Kos from Mamur. Here we encamped under the shade of some Trees of the Oriental Plane of great size and beauty out of which the seeds were not ripe. One measured [blank] feet in circumference at about four feet from the ground and it is said that there are many much larger. Pundits had been sent by the Diwan and by other persons with presents of fruit and with orders to accompany our party.

3^d We continued our March quitting the River and skirting the base of the southern range at Ganderbal a Custom house about 3 Miles from our last night's encampment we were met by Murza Jonhad the physician of Omar Khan who was about to proceed to Indejan by the road of Balkh and of Hissar. This information respecting the quiet state of Balkh is favorable

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favorable to our journey but there is a report of a division amongst the brothers of Aziera Khan against him which is somewhat annoying in anticipation. Meer Aleebux a relation of Meer Izzat Oollah also met us & about two Miles from the City the Son of Nund Ram with a party of Horsemen and a body of the Regiment disciplined after the European manner preceded our party to the City with a flag and a drum. The road was [for] a considerable distance merely a path and that a bad one much intersected by boggy rivulets but at some ruins called Badshah Ki bagh from there having been formerly surrounded by a garden a broad road led to Nowshera or the new City. The valley now appeared in very considerable breadth bounded by rocks surmounted by Snow and the plain being a surface of Rice fields with a very large proportion of lake and of swampy ground intermixed with Trees of which the Oriental Plane is the principal or most common.

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The season was certainly not the most favorable for seeing a new country but the impression was not as favorable as was expected. On entering the town we found the doors & windows filled with Spectators who saluted the party with much respect. The Houses stood in general distant from each other each having a garden attached for the most part. Many were built wholly with wood others of unbaked bricks & others again partly of sunbaked bricks & partly of wood. Ordinarily these were two or three stories high but almost all were shabby out of repair and indicated poor and almost general indigence. Some portions of old Hindoo Temples and of Mosques indicated times when Kashmeer engaged more liberal Governors. Many persons assailed our companion Soorat Singh with very clamorous representations on the distress occasioned by an order of the Government to prevent the sale of the Rice of the Crop recently cut until a deficit in the revenue of last year of 5 Lakhs of Rupees. The Sikh seemed to be sensible of the ?? and injustice of this measure

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measure but threw the blame upon the Pundits and others who surrounded the Diwan. We took up our quarters in a secured garden called Dolami Khan ki Bagh of which the rooms were said to have been built in two days on the occasion of a visit from Abdoolla Khan and if the available had been in readiness there is nothing extraordinary in the performance. Motee Ram sent word that he should hope to see me at a Garden a little distance from the Site of our present encampment in two days.

Nov 5th The crowds of people who have come to see our party have been increasing. They first filled the garden and afterwards came in boats from a lake on the opposite side. The banquetting or summer house in which I had for the day inhabited standing on the verge of a ?? called [blank]. The Hurkarees belonging to the Diwan prevented the people coming to me but I directed them to let them in hopes that in a day or two public curiosity would

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would be satisfied but instead of this happening the multitude increased.

The Sikh Soldiery were inquisitive but by no means uncivil and every soldier who had been in the Company's service of whom there were many thought himself entitled to ask some questions respecting Gentlemen whom they had seen or heard of in Hindoostan. Many Merchants from Dehli and Benares of Kashmeer tendered their services for cashing Bills and for converting money and amongst these was [blank] a resident of Farukhabad and an Agent of a Merchant at Najibabad who had been at Calcutta and made many extraordinary observations on the beauty, riches and arrangements of Calcutta. In describing the buildings he said that they were as clean and as white as a new laid Egg. He considered the launching of a Ship as one of the greatest exertions of mechanism in consequence of a single man being capable by striking a few blows to put in motion a mass of such bulk and weight. His reflections on some subjects were extremely correct but the lottery was more a favorite with him invested with his

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with his precedence as a Merchant. He had known several Gentlemen in the Civil Service and his account of Sir Edward Colebrooke reflected the highest credit on the conduct of that most meritorious and most popular officer. Scarcely was there he said a dry eye in the City on the day of his departure. His justice he said was never questioned, his disposition to serve the Natives was incessant and his behavior so obliging that if persons waited for employment at his hands without finding it at least no one left him without the conviction that he would have been served had Sir Edward had only his own inclination to consult. He himself came to purchase Shawls. Many he said made of Silk and Thread had come from Europe which were afforded at a very cheap rate at the first blush looked very like those of Kashmeer but in a close examination were found to be less soft less brilliant in color

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and the weaving of the flowers examined on the wrong side was more like the disposition of the threads left by the needle of the embroiderer than by the shuttle or bobbin of the weaver. He believed he said if a thread or two was unravelled that a flower would wholly come out but he was not quite sure of the fact as he had never actually tried the experiment. If said he you had all the things assuredly your workmen would make the Shawls as well as they are manufactured in Kashmeer but these requisites you have not yet in your power.

Runjeet Singh had written to Motee Ram to show all possible civility to our party but at the same time stating that we intended to stay 8 or 10 or 12 days and this had been expressed in a letter to me. This short stay did not suit our dismantled state as a long journey was before us and we had not a large tent that could keep out a shower and I was reduced to one shirt of cotton. My friend could not reach us in less than a

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a month as he was waiting at Leh for the arrival of some Pearls as a remittance from Calcutta by the way of Subathoo and the information from Kabool was too uncertain to act upon. It was therefore determined to represent these circumstances to

Runjeet Singh who was said to be at Rawal Pindee. At all events this would if accorded to by the Loobadar enable us to gain as much time as would suffice to complete our equipments. The Diwan was too much indisposed from the medicine he had taken as to be obliged to postpone the meeting proposed on his part for two days. I employed a large body of women and children to select the best Prangos seeds an operation more expensive than their purchase.

-
- 1 to be ????
 - 2 he ????
 - 3 I had ????
 - 4 baffled????
 - 5 sounded
 - 6 it did ????
 - 7 of the