

Moorcroft's Last Journey

Transcriber's Note: William Moorcroft and his party had been travelling for five years, when on July 22, 1825 they left Bokhara to head back to Afghanistan. The last dated entry in his journal on Aug 3 describes their route toward the Oxus, and subsequent entries provide observations on the countryside they are passing through, and recollections of various "Oozbuks" he has met in his travels. He continues to write of various schemes to improve the lives of the people of the area, and his last paragraph begins "I may be accused of fostering schemes of ambition...." and ends with an observation of what "A body of European Emigrants..." might accomplish. Then the journal goes dead, and ends in a statement in another hand "Mr. Moorcroft died in August 1825".

The original journal is stored as MSS. Eur. D. 254 --Bukhara and Return from Bukhara in the British Library, and has been transcribed by Janet Rizvi and Dan Jantzen from digitized microfilms provided by the British Library. The Last Journey section of this Journal, from page 310. has been partly transcribed in fairly legible handwriting by at least two unidentified scholars, surmisedly staffers of the erstwhile India Office Library. When, and for what purpose, is not indicated. The prefatory note reads as follows:

The manuscript volume from which the following journal is extracted was not utilized by Wilson, who, indeed, gives no account of Moorcroft's last journey. Moorcroft died when he had all but accomplished his great task, and this tragic event appears to have been the signal for catastrophe: [Note: Foul play has been suggested, but no evidence in support of the suggestion has been put forth.] Guthrie died at Balkh and was buried by Moorcroft's side; Trebeck was taken ill and never recovered; and even Izzat Ullah Khan died before reaching India.

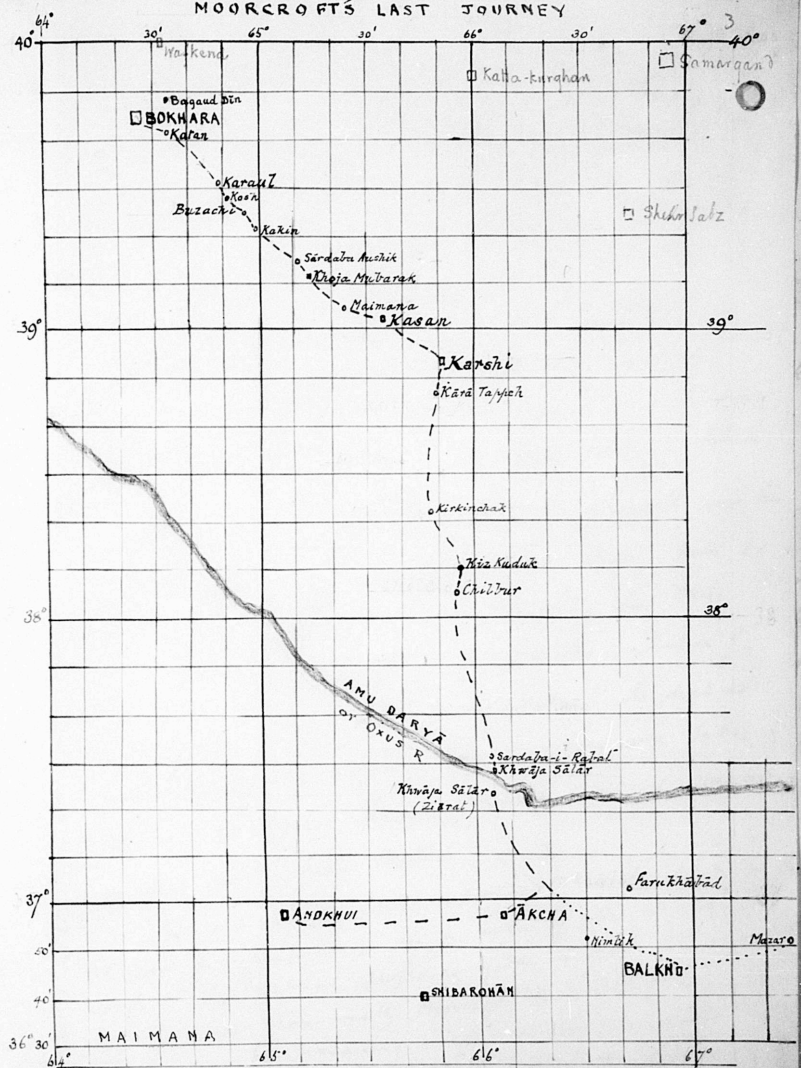
The journal records the journey of Moorcroft and his party from Bokhara as far as the Oxus, from 22 July to 3 August 1825. After crossing the Oxus Moorcroft left the main party with the intention of visiting Maimana to purchase horses. He died at Andkhui on 27 August and his body was taken to Balkh and buried there. Trebeck died at Mazar a few miles from Balkh.

The journal is almost unreadable as it stands in the MS, for it is embedded in a mass of other records. [Note: In the midst of these is also another journal of an expedition to Miankal, that took place early in July 1825.] The whole of the journal is given below, but it is still defective, as, occasionally, Moorcroft's handwriting is quite illegible, and his meaning is often obscure. Moorcroft never intended his journals to be published without due preparation. They contain a great deal of loose writing that should never be printed.

The anonymous scholars have edited the journal, placing the events as far as possible in chronological order, and omitting several digressions.

The present editors/transcribers have worked from Moorcroft's original MS, but have where possible collated their work against that of the anonymous scholars who went before them. As usual, the place-names have presented problems, and we've done our best to transcribe them as Moorcroft wrote them. We've explained his system of transliteration of proper names in the Transcriber's Notes, and he follows it with a fair amount of consistency. Our anonymous predecessors compiled a sketch map of Moorcroft's route from Bokhara to his burial in Balkh, which we include.

MOORCROFT'S LAST JOURNEY



1815.
 intended his journals to be preserved
 contain a great deal of loose writing that should never be printed.

Leave taking at Bokhara

For five or six days previously to the departure of our Caravan great numbers of respectable people in the Streets saluted me and wished me a good journey, and then children who when we first arrived used to call after us Ooroos! Ooroos! as a term of abuse now folded their arms across their breast, called me Agha, Khan, Beghee and wished that God would make my path white--that is exempt from difficulties. The Minister sent me the Kings Khilut consisting of a Coat of broad cloth for me one of Silk for Mr Trebeck four Coats for such of my servants as I should think proper two or three pieces of Russian Nanking as many of silk [ileg.] for the use of my house. Thus terminated the magnificent Khilut anticipated to be of the richest Brocades of Russia and of China and to which the people had added two of H Majesty's best Horses. Perhaps the full value might be about 50 or 60 Rs and my present was worth about 1200. Yet still the Bokharans considered the honor conferred on me as being greater than any received before by any stranger.

(311)

The Minister seemed ashamed of the value of the present which I acknowledged as a fresh token of H Ms kindness. Arrangements were made by me for the transmission of intelligence should any thing particular take place in the politics of Bokhara a city I quit with great pleasure as being the most uninteresting residence for 4 ½ months I have yet had. I reserve my general reflections upon the political condition of this country and upon its commerce for another opportunity of more leisure. The march to Kurshee has been given and it remains to speak of our reception by the Tora whom I intended to have visited for the purpose of delivering his fathers letter. However in this we were anticipated by the Mehmandar Bashee who habited in a silken vest with silver flowers, of Russian manufacture asked for the King's letter. It is probable that the Tora was on the road from the Fort when he received it as he shortly after made his appearance made a slight return to our salutation and walked on to a Zearut close to our encampment after which he rode past our horses[?] and departed. We were visited by a Moollah whom we had seen before and who desired to know the number of our Horses the names of the [illeg.] from whom we had bought any with the prices. This was done and in about two hours the highest priced were taken to the Tora for inspection along with the Wazeeree[?] Horses all of which were returned. A report had been given to the

[312]

Tora that a set of Horse Furniture (Yeerak) had been got up of which the making alone had cost sixty pieces of Gold and he desired to see it after which he wished to shew it to a Silversmith as a pattern should he approve of its design and execution. A person whom we had known as a Merchant at Bokhara was anxious to shew some things not sold to the Tora which we begged to decline on the plea of their being packed up for the whole road to Calcutta. We had heard that the Tora was not punctual in money transactions. The next day the Mehmandar Bashee came to the

Sahebzada and said we must give to the Tora as a Nuzzurana our best Horse and Afghan the Wuzeeree[,] leave the bridle[,] open all our baggage and march as soon as possible.¹ I declared to the Sahebzada that I would do none of these things but would go to the Tora represent that I was the Guest of his Father and of himself and if he persisted in oppressing me I would at all risks return to Bokhara for the purpose of laying my case before his Majesty. After a time the Mehmandar Bashee Entertainer of Guests engaged if he received twenty pieces of Gold that he would plead our cause. I suspected him strongly of being the author of the scheme to extract money for himself under the plea of serving his Master. We took out a shawl Jamawar and four English shawls

(313)

and when on the road he said our Tazee Horse was indispensable. We accordingly proceeded to the Fort. The multitude and the Attendants except one or two in the secret[?] conceived that our present was voluntary. Many indeed all the Horses in the court yard were offered to us for sale. Our present was taken to the Tora and approved. The people ranged themselves in two lines in the space between which the Tora came out of the Fort Gate on horse back. We had been directed to place ourselves within the lines and as he approached the Jauchee[?] Bashee or Crier called out in a loud voice that European Merchants prayed for the health of his Highness and brought presents. We held up our hands and he stroked his chin as he passed to pray in a Mosque about a hundred yards on the roadside of the Fort. The Horse was left and the shawls and the Mehmandar Bashee said he would come and adjust every thing at our camp. Some hours elapsed and the trustworthy Mehmandar Bashee not coming I suspected that he intended to keep the bridle &c. along with ten pieces of Gold given in earnest of our intention to pay the remainder. The Sahibzada seeing the matter in the same point of view mounted his Horse met the Officer in question at his own house with several of the Courtiers. He descanted largely upon the friendship the King had shown to us and the general respect with which we had been treated and the danger to which

[314]

which the advisers of this measure would stand exposed when the King should hear of it. Added to which the young Prince would tarnish his good name, which by the bye had already suffered by several transactions little better than Thefts and the commerce of the country would receive a serious injury if indeed some retaliation did not take place. His sentiments were adopted by several courtiers. One went to the Tora and made such a representation as induced him to return the shawls and Bridle but he asked to keep the Horse and would send one for my acceptance at least equal in value. Many horses of the Tora were offered to me for sale the day before all of which I refused and amongst others a [illeg.] Toorkman lame both before and behind. This animal was tendered and it was thought better to keep him and attempt to improve his state as he had some figure than to return him. The Mehmandar Bashee sent three brood horses of his own with their foals and received a further gratification of a Shawl but I took not his Cattle. The Tora had said that I might see almost seventy brood Mares of his at the distance of two Fursukhs[,]

purchase any I might approve and all Horses that may be tendered for sale which however as I understood were previously shewn to him

(315)

I declined the invitation to go thinking it better as soon as practicable to quit the country under the jurisdiction of a youth little under restraint even from his Father and who apparently was likely to be little restrained by any favorable feeling but we were somewhat restrained by the necessity of obtaining food for our Horses for crossing the Desert which could not be had till the following day. When Syyud Bee the Hakim of Hissar sent his daughter to Bokhara as wife to the King she was accompanied by a female Slave to whom the Monarch immediately evinced a partiality which terminated in her giving him a Son named Tora Bahadur the present Governor of Kurshee whilst the legal wife presented him not with any progeny. Tora Bahadur about sixteen is sanguinary and the King makes no enquiry respecting the remains real or imaginary of his victims under a persuasion that this conduct is a demonstration of a courageous disposition. However the last time the Sovereign went to Kurshee and since my party were at Bokhara he put to death nine of the courtiers on the plea of their leading his Son into all kinds of Vice and included in the number his uncle by the mothers side notwithstanding his consanguinity was highly pleaded in his favor. In respect to us the Youth condescended to state that the present we had shewn to him at Kurshee and which he thought it decorous to make it known to his Father before he took it had never been forwarded to him and this from the avaricious disposition [?of the King] is by no means improbable. It was left in the hands of the Minister who had a Note taken of its contents and could not have with-held it if it was really with-held unless he

(316)

had received special instructions so to do.

The Sahibzada was told that we had hitherto passed through many countries with reputation and that I preferred losing my life to losing my character so that I should certainly proceed to Bokhara and take my chance of the effect of my representation than suffer the degradation of having any thing taken from me by force. He said that there was not any word[?] of the Shawls and that the Horse he wished for should have a substitute at least equally valuable as I had refused to sell him. This was considered as a great concession as this Youth had heretofore been in the habit of taking by force and without any equivalent such Horses as he was pleased with from the Lowhanees and all other Merchants. The exchange was held by the people of Kurshee to be highly favorable to me as an approval of my judgment and as a return wholly novel insomuch that on no occasion had it been practised. Considering this state of things and that the general opinion of the people was that we had been treated with kindness and allowed to purchase horses which however I now declined I forbore to press matters further making allowance for the caprices of a youthful mind hitherto wholly unrestrained. Besides it was possible that Bigotry might have had its share towards persuading him that the laws of justice were unnecessary in respect to an Unbeliever. Many persons came on the

road to Kurshee to say that they had Horses for sale if I would go privately to see them as they feared that should the

(317)

Tora learn that they had fine Horses and I should not have bought them he would certainly take them by force. I here learned that the Horse I had bought from Omar Khan the Tora of Karneena was two years ago forcibly taken from Hajee Gool Khan by Tora Bahadur of Kurshee and sent as a present to his half brother. It speaks not very forcibly in favor of the Kings justice to have allowed a Horse to be kept under such circumstances. From Aga Baba the Tora has lately taken seven Shawls of his own choice as a present to himself without the least consideration for their value. Taking therefore the general custom into consideration it would seem that we actually have been treated with lenity and with some appearance of justice whilst the kindness shown to us by the Prince has been a theme of admiration to those who are not in the secret. Kurshee being separated from Bokhara by a broad Desert which it is difficult to pass in respect to scarcity of water and forage in the hot season but to which the former objection is less an obstacle in the winter and spring is a locality somewhat encouraging to rebellious spirits not under due restraints from the influence of affection or of education. Meer Ameer Hydur was as before stated in rebellion against his Father at the period when the latter died the report of which reached him for several days before he gave credit to its truth believing it to be merely an artifice put forth for the purpose of decoying him to the capital where he could be seized and punished. It requires but little foresight to discover that if the King live a few years longer Tora

[318]

Tora Bahadur will assert his independence and if he die that he will struggle with his older brother the legitimate Heir Mohummud Hoosen for the possession of the Throne. The result will probably depend upon the personal character and conduct of the latter and if he should be sagacious and determined the Governor of Kurshee may be disappointed. The Court of the latter is in respect to the dress of the Courtiers more respectable than that of Bokhara where the King unwisely affecting the habit of a Soofee has caused nearly all the men of rank to ape the vestments and habits as of Moollahs. It is said that the Youth gives Horses Vestments and Money somewhat liberally to his Partisans whilst the King is most parsimonious in all these points and the Heir apparent as before mentioned has no Court nor any power to be liberal although it is said that he has gone farther and shewn himself generous. It has been whispered that a proposition was made to him by a person attached to the Russians that if the Prince would be friendly towards them their assistance would not be wanting in promoting his interest. This proposition he declined at the moment it might be have been usefully available out of regard to his filial duties but it is now hinted that he has found that he labored under the mistake of being more just than consisted with his interests. And should the Russians invade Bokhara it seems not improbable

(319)

improbable that they would place Mohummud Hoosen on the throne in conformity to his popular claim and to the partiality with which he is beheld by the Oozbuds in general. On the arrival of our party at Bokhara the King appeared to have entertained some ideas in regard to a political connection with the British Govt. which having gradually been weakened by a succession of new impressions have now wholly vanished. He told Meer Wuzeer Ahmud that he would send him back to Hindoostan along with me as his Ambassador to the Governor General and the Minister frequently threw out hints that it was probable he should be in England in an official capacity. But when I took leave the Kings intention appeared to have been abandoned and it is obvious enough that H M possesses not vigor of mind adequate to Kingly duties and especially in respect to the circumstances in which it is presumable he may be speedily involved. It seems extraordinary that Merchants should frequent Bokhara by the road of Kurshee seeing the degree of oppression to which they are exposed from the Tora and nothing could reconcile them to it but the large profit they make on their commodities by sale and in the resale of horses in Hindoostan and the neighboring countries of the Punjab & Afghanistan. There is a breed of small neat[?] horses in Kurshee and its vicinity reaching 14 or 14-1 to 2 procurable on the spot at from 100 to 150 Rs well adapted for light country and probably for that of Bombay and Madras however I shall see more upon this subject when I shall have travelled further on my road back through these districts occupied by the Turkomans.

(320)

Meer Ameer Hydur was annoyed that I would not see his views and that such was the want of money in his camp as to induce almost all his courtiers wherever I went voluntarily to tender their horses for sale. He cared little whether I took good or indifferent Horses but his pride was mortified at the rapidity with which the people of his army availed themselves of the permission he had given me. He enquired through a Servant if I had not more of the machinery that uttered sound meaning a musical Scale and I now perceive the line through which his future permission to purchase and that of his Son at Kurshee may be acquired should it be thought worth while to make any sacrifice on this object. His feeling of resentment towards me arising merely out of expectation which on consideration cannot but appear ill founded on his part and to a knowledge of which I could arrive through inference alone will not be permanent. But I think it not unlikely that the left bank of the Oxus low down may furnish Horses to the full as desirable as those farther. I have said low do[wn] than of the countries near the mountains produces horses rather smaller and less regular in form but very hardy and cheap.²

(205)

Return from Bokhara commencing July 22, 1825

I took leave of the minister and returned to the Garden House of Meer Ismaatoollah Bee one of the principal men in Bokhara who had lent me the use of a large yard in

which I placed my horses as I purchased them. He had previously refused to accede to any terms of hire but it was intimated that some compensation would be expected on my going away. Accordingly I made him a present of cloths of various kinds amounting to about twelve guineas as a gratification for the use of his premises during about three months and after I had departed I learnt his servants had sold the Horse Dung for fifty pieces of gold.

It may serve as a trait to illustrate Oozbuk character if I observe that I was desired to cause the Dung to be removed to another part of the premises at my expence and in Hindoostan even I never saw work performed in a manner so lazy whilst every man employed had higher wages than a good workman in a common trade in England. Mr Trebeck went off early in the day with the Stallions and I intended to bring up the baggage afterwards but was prevented by the number of camels hired being found insufficient through the Kafila Bashee having made small loads and as it was our

[206]

object to depart as speedily as possible it was thought more advisable to overlook imposition in the commencement of our journey and to check it where it could be done with convenience than to affect a strictness which under circumstances might lead to loss rather than to profit. However the delay threw me into the night somewhat inconveniently as the party who remained with me were without food. I sent for meat and Rice from the city borrowed an iron cauldron and a Kashmeeree Silversmith who had been engaged for the two previous months in making for me a Toorkman Bridle as a pattern engaged to perform the office of Cook in preparing an Oozbuk Pulou known by the name of its inventor Shadee Begh and used in the Madrisas or Colleges of Bokhara by the Pupils and their Masters. As it is simple inexpensive and rapidly prepared it is convenient for a party of Travellers who eat together and I shall therefore give it.

Pulou Shadee Begh

Materials--Lean and fat mutton --Sheep tail--salt--pepper--coriander seeds and Pepper in powder--Onions Carrots Rice and water. The quantity of meat employed was about two pounds--Fat of the tail a pound--Rice five pounds—Onions sliced half a pound--Carrots in thin slices a pound and a half--Water about 5 quarts.

The cauldron placed over the fire was so heated as to extract the fat from the tail

(207)

cut in small pieces leaving the membranes fried and nearly burnt--when the latter are reduced to this state they are either given to any poor person who may be near or thrown into the fire to increase its velocity. The lean meat cut into small shreds or squares not[?] generally half an inch or an inch on one surface and half in another being washed, of which the propriety may be questioned, is thrown into the fat and

stirred after which salt is added. The Meat is stirred about by a ladle pierced with holes like a Cullender and when it is rendered sufficiently tender and brown the cook satisfies himself of the relish as to salt being sufficient by tasting the Curry and a square or shred of the flesh. Satisfied upon this point he sprinkles the meat with Pepper and Coriander in powder covers it with the Onions then with the Carrots cut into narrow and thin strips lengthways after which he places overall the Rice washed and cleaned but not boiled . Water is next poured over this equally through the holes in the ladle and covers the Rice about two inches in depth when the fire is urged briskly until the Rice having absorbed much and swollen considerably is become soft. When its surface is nearly dry the lid of the caldron is put on the steam retained by a wet cloth or a tile[?] and when it has been left in this state for about a quarter of an hour the preparation is ready. The Rice is now carefully taken

[208]

off and laid by the ladle on dishes until the Carrots are exposed along with the Onions and Meat which are placed upon the surface in a conical form. The whole process occupies about an hour and a half. If the rice were previously boiled...

Early in the morning we departed and our direction was E 33° S to Karsik distance about ten miles. Country flat. first fruit in Gardens. Mains running by the side of and across the road. Plats or bridges frequent and inconvenient. Halfway the garden cultivation decreases and some of the land uncultivated is covered with Salt and Camelthorn. In one hollow to which the water had flowed from the neighboring lands there was a crust of Salt half an inch thick and the country round Bokhara would be a complete bed of Nitre and Soda were it not frequently washed by irrigation. The minister told me two days ago that ten thousand Asses were employed daily throughout the year in carrying off the Manure of the city. Country flat a low range of Hills to the right. Koruk a small village. At our encampment an immense quantity of Samphire on the salt grounds. I observed the same plant on the salt marshes of Meeankal. When boiled for a long time in a large proportion of water this Samphire became not only tender but palatable as a green, but cooked with a small quantity its alkaliescent taste rendered it disagreeable.

It grows here in such profusion

(209)

in single bushes as to shew that its propagation is by seed although I have not seen it in this state. If burnt it would certainly yield a large quantity of potash and it might answer in Hindoostan to cultivate Samphire expressly for this purpose on those salt grounds which have been found unfit for most other vegetables, but as I have remarked when manured with fresh Dung and well watered produce Melons of superior quality. I suspect that the saline nature of the soil of Bokhara is adverse to the long duration of almost all the fruit-bearing trees except the Mulberry which here acquires a great size. At a Zearat in Meeankal I saw two which had been planted by the side of a Tomb near a Mosque which was built four hundred years ago and were said to be coeval with it. This seems not improbable if a conclusion upon this point may be drawn from its small diameter of one Mulberry Tree at Kabool which contained fifty annual circles of wood. The aged trees just alluded to

had lost almost the whole of the central wood of the trunk and the weight of the branches had split the circular bark and bowed it nearly to the ground but the hollow diameter of one tree was nearly three yards indicating a vast age. The Sunged Trees of Bokhara cascade[?] salt into cavities of their bark and throw out much Green which then flowers numerous but little fragrant and their distorted trunks shew that the salt soil is not as well suited to the constitution of this tree as the barren soil of Tibut when watered. Samphire if covered with sand might be deprived of its intense green and perhaps in its extreme branches made to resemble Sea Kale but its leguminous central thread in

210

in its greater ramifications even render it inferior as a material for the Kitchen and it was seen that these were more woody than in the same plant raised on the seashore. Yogor Zagarich, as he is called by the Russians, Aga Gorgeen by the Oozbuks, and Georg Shakasee by his countrymen the Georgians, accompanied us to Koruk after having largely furnished us with earthen bottles filled with Wine Cherry Brandy White Grape Brandy and Vinegar. I had recollected that the Princesse de Linangle had sent an annual supply of a very fine wine to a friend of mine under the name of Vin de Pêche and as Peaches were now plentiful and cheap in the Bazar of Bokhara I had suggested to Gorgeen the expediency of making a trial of this material for wine. He had adopted the idea and reported that the fluid obtained was in price only the same as that of the juice of that Grape. It entered rapidly into fermentation and gave promise of good Wine but on the second day of the process it was transferred into large earthen Bottles and put into wooden Paniers of which the top was necessarily exposed to the Sun. Thus after two days in the condition from journeying it was found that the Contents of an Earthen bottle through heat and agitation had passed over the vinous and was running into acetone fermentation. This reconciled us more easily to the loss of a four gallon Bottle broken through the mismanagement of a Servant in loading it upon an Ass the day before but the experiment is left incomplete. I have never seen Trees

211

Trees so loaded with fruit as the Peach Orchards of Bokhara. In one of three years standing many of the trees had their upper branches split and broken off by the weight of the fruit and almost the whole of them had curves given to their direction which would be permanent. A Slave in the confidence of Meer Ismutoollah Bee said that the produce of the Garden having been sold the servants had not propped the trees according to the general custom. This Bee had gone to the King of Kokan as Ambassador and is supposed to be not only one of the most powerful but one of the most wealthy individuals in the country. He had left his wives and children and servers amounting to eighty persons at the Garden[?] house where my horses were accommodated with quarters and for the support of the former during his absence which lasted three months he had made no farther provision than to allow them to sell the fruit and Lucerne Crop in the Garden which had produced eighty pieces of Gold. His wives remained in the Harem Seræe between one side of the Peach Garden and the canal but the children ran about where they pleased and as their

attendants are slaves of both sexes of different countries it may readily be imagined that if they receive from commerce with them some good impressions those of a contrary nature are received in a larger proportion. The breed of Fowls in Bokhara is fine that of the Game breed in particular exceeds for courage and beauty all the varieties I have seen. I had procured some of the best formed young hens and a yellow pheasant breasted cock at considerable prices. It is somewhat curious that a black Game Cock is seldom to be met with whilst this is the most common color

[212]

amongst the Hens. It being reported that I paid large prices for fine fowls birds of this description were brought as well from the country called here "Sara" literally "the Desert" as from the City for sale. I had been particularly anxious to obtain the best cock procurable and on my return from looking for horses one day found two candidates for sale. The owner of one a Moolah had challenged a peasant who had brought his bird from the country to fight before me that I might see the courage and condition of the Cocks and select that which might best please me. The Moolahs bird was large heavy and in full feather that of the peasant was moulting and he was lighter. The battle continued for two hours when the Moolah took up his bird which had the worst of it. I purchased the peasants Cock which was one of the noblest I ever beheld and if in condition would weigh about 5 pounds. The Moolah challenged to fight his bird against mine in twenty days which I accepted on the condition that the Victor should have both birds and as many pieces of Gold as might be agreed upon. Although the Moolah never returned from a considerable number of cocks being brought in succession it was inferred that he was trying the metal of my bird which was always victorious and acquired a high reputation. This bird along with three young well chosen hens was taken to

(213)

the garden of Imatoollah Bee and I had made arrangements for them being carried to India and entrusted them to the care of one person. However at Koruk it was found that the Cock and two Hens had disappeared and circumstances led to a belief that this Chiefs Servants had stolen them. The loss was not to be repaired and furnishes a trait of Oozbuk manners. Almost nothing had been lost at the Serae in consequence of the King having sent for the Keeper and told him that if any part of my property were stolen he should be responsible and be punished by the loss of his eyes. Returning to the subject of Peaches as connected with that system of Orchard Culture which may certainly be prosecuted in some parts of the mountains of Gurwhal if not in the plains it may be remarked that the general price of ripe Peaches when I left Bokhara and the season had not reached its height was about seven pounds for two pence. The quantity brought for sale is immense and it appears that the whole is eaten without undergoing any preparation. Peaches eaten in large quantity without the accompaniment of bread are said to derange the digestion and to occasion Intermittent Fever. That the first part of the assertion is true cannot be doubted and that fever is the result of the irritation of the undigested mass remaining long in the Intestines is equally correct but it is to be taken into the

account that since the Kuthaee Kipchaks have been in rebellion more so pursued by the King is not to have

[214]

have had leisure to expend a large proportion of the Ak and Karra Daria or white and black Rivers which run first run [sic] through their country on their cultivated lands, these Rivers overflow their low banks and convert a large expanse of land formerly dry into swamp at no great distance from Bokhara and since this has happened Intermittent Fevers have been much more common then when the supply of water to Bokhara from the Rivers in question was less and there was no inundation. Moolah Boorhan Bee, by birth Toksaba [blank] was taken suddenly ill and requested me to see him as a friend and having had much conversation at the Seraee[?] of the Minister when the latter was indisposed with fever and the former was considered as consulting Physician. I found him laboring under indigestion from eating an enormous quantity of Peaches two days in succession. He had hoped to have taken off the fever by exposing himself to cold air but was relieved by an Emetic Purgative and the re-establishment of the secretion in the Skin which had been checked. But after a few days he was attacked with Intermittent [fever] the result of exposure to Marsh Miasmata whilst under a state of weakness. What quality it is in the Peach which produces indigestion has not been considered. The skin is almost always thrown away. The Peach contains in its Pulp much sweet matter, some Citric[?] and rather a large proportion

(215)

proportion of fibre. The Nectarine with the same qualities as to water and nearly as to flavor has fewer fibres in its flesh and may be eaten in larger quantity than the Peach with impunity. May the indigestible part of the Peach reside in the strings which may be vessels that retain their vitality and resist the powers of digestion exactly as raw rice or raw barley induced indigestion and continued fever amongst the unhappy ?Gurwhalees when I saw them in 1812 oppressed severely by the Gorkhas. The Peach and apricot when cooked has nothing indigestible. Sherbet from the former is innocent. If wine cannot be produced from the Peach Brandy may but whether equal in quality to that of the Grape I have to learn. The Peaches (Summer fruit) of Bokhara are red and white, the latter more juicy and having a better flavor but inferior to the red Peach of Kandahar and that brought from Estaless and Koh Dunnaeen to the markets of Kabool. The Nectarine (Summer fruit) of Bokhara is red white and mixed. The red has part of its pulp red and the fibres white to the stone which is likewise of this color. The white has a higher flavor, the threads and being slightly stone white.³ The mixed or Mardrus blush Nectarine is a most lovely fruit and very good but all these [illeg.] are rather small. The Tecmaeel or Autumn Nectarine called Shaleeka is somewhat rare and said to have been introduced from

[216]

from Sumurkund. I saw it only in the Garden of Moollah Boorkan where the trees were on the point of being broken from the weight of the fruit. It was of a dark red

color generally was said to be of the size of a man's fist when fully ripe and highly delicious. The Moollah promised to save the stones and send them to Aga Georgeen who is his friend and manufactures Brandy for him. All the stones procurable will be forwarded to me as the fruit appears to [be] superior than our English varieties. From the stable yard of the Moollah being furnished with some good Horses at Puket and a Tomb being covered by a large Trellis of Vine I was led to expect some better arrangement in his Chahar Bagh or four Gardens then elsewhere. I found his Tent near one Zearat[?] himself in the alley of Goojjum or Elm in a second near a small house, the usual form, and thought that the Vine yard Plum and Peach Orchard might be in better order but in squeezing myself through a small Wicket I found only a ridge about nine inches in breadth as a walk under the Wall of earth raised out of this material cut out of a ditch six[?] feet deep and five broad so that it required attention to the footing. This singularity is a prominent feature in all Oozbuk gardens. One day talking familiarly with the Minister who had acted with some

217

inconsistency I asked him whether the conduct he had pursued was wholly wise to which he answered by asking if I expected wisdom in Oozbukistan. Perhaps I may have been imputed with some of the prominent features as I have wandered far from the point of shewing that cooking apricots and Peaches, perhaps by destroying the vital principle[?] in the vessels renders the pulp innocent[?] and nutritious. In fact it is nutritious in the recent[?] state but eaten largely is prejudicial. The pulp dried with care may perhaps be converted into a kind of cheese at all events after its juice is extracted it becomes a food for many domestic animals and its cultivation ought to be extended in Europe.

Night of 22nd

Georgeen returned in the evening to Bokhara taking with him our best wishes and an opinion that he is the worthiest fellow we have met with in this City. He had realized about four thousand pieces of gold by trading in Wine and Lambskins but was deprived of the whole partly by a Caravan being plundered between Bokhara and Meshed through collusion between the Banditti and the Karwan Bashee and by an Armenian who had been long in his service as steward changing his faith at Meshed to obtain the daughter of a Kizzelbash. Georgeen is an example of the long use of spirituous liquors of good quality not destroying the powers of the constitution

[218]

He is now fifty drinks a glass of brandy in a morning and one before every Meal as well as some with Tea. He says that he began the practice when young and can scarcely be intoxicated by any quantity of wine. His knowledge of manufacturing wine is purely practical and his Brandy is equal at least to the best Nantz or Cogniac. If the grape succeed in Gurwhal as there is reason to believe it would be highly advantageous to British interests to have such a person to manage the manufacturing of wine and Brandies in the mountainous regions. It is late in life for a man verging on sixty to pursue speculations of this nature but if it be agreeable to

the Court I will endeavor to invite this Pomona of Afghanistan and of Toorkistan to visit the British Indian Mountains. Whether the Wines of Gurwhal may rival those of Europe can only be known by trial but they may be afforded it is conceived so cheaply as in military stations to supersede the use of Rum to the private European a matter of no small importance to his health and perhaps to compete as has been before observed with the best of Europe in European markets through various favoring circumstances. The Brandy from the seedless grape [illeg.] of a finer flavor than the very best in Europe at an early age and [?will] promote the circulation of Capital now much locked up

219

by waiting for the maturity of the liquor.

Charek[?] -- The encampment was on salt grounds near Marshes frequented by flights of young Cormorants Plover Red Shanks and other swimming and wading classes of water fowl. Black Cattle in abundance were here allowed to be at liberty. They were small but of good form and in excellent condition. The Sheep here were mostly of the Arab breed and the Dogs used to guard them were fierce, vigilant and active. A stripe of marsh separated us from the rising land of the Desert over which we marched in the evening and during the night to Rabat Karowul a distance of four Fursukhs or twenty miles. The general direction was the same as was that of yesterday but we wandered from it several times in the course of the night and should have been much wrong had not there [been] a bright moon and unclouded sky. The day had been very hot the night was cool nay a strong wind was occasionally more cold than was pleasant as owing to my having had a head ach and my usual riding horse having overreached and cut his fore leg I had got into a Kajawar where I found the want of clothing sufficient uncomfortable enough. The vessels of the skin had been in full activity during the day giving out their contents with profusion but in the night the discharge was suppressed the interior circulation subdued and an overcharge of blood driven in the vessels when seated produced pain like Rheumatism along with spasms in the Muscles.

[220]

I had just returned from a journey to Kathaee Koorghan or the Fort of the Kathaee Kipchuks in Meeankal about 8 Farsukhs distant from Sumerkund. The heat of the day in Bokhara during half June and the fore part of July had been great and I had constantly wore a heavy woollen Coat and warm Waistcoat with other parts of dress in correspondence. And instead of sleeping in the open Air as was practised by many others I confined myself to my room. The surface of the body under this management was continually bathed in perspiration but I never experienced even when exposed to the full influence of the hot winds which blow here with no small force that heated dry parched or rather scorched condition of the skin I so frequently felt in Hindustan in thin light clothing. The ill effects of the Sun upon my horses when a hot day drenching them with sweat was followed by a cold night had been most abundantly seen and corrected and I resolved to pursue the practice of the Oozbuds in adopting warm clothing even when the weather was hot. The

journey of 9 days backwards & forwards was effected under the influence of a Sun and hot wind such as I have only felt in India and on emerging from the Khyber pass at Dukka amongst the Shinwaree. Although my hands were burnt so that the skin was swollen red and painful my under lip was deeply blistered yet I suffered scarcely at all except with thirst from the great loss of

221

of moisture by the skin. Upon this subject I shall descant more at leisure but see enough to commend in the custom of the Oozbuds who wear two or three coverings of which the outer one is stuffed slightly with cotton in the hot season to prevent the body being burnt by the sun.

This practice may be ridiculed if the attention of the public be drawn to it but if I return to Hindoostan I will most assuredly adopt it in regard to myself and instead of white have a dark color. Woolen cloths single[?] do not sufficiently answer the end Silk of strong fabric lined with cotton especially if the texture were like that of frize might prove better. If a light fur did not contract animal smell it would probably be the best material and a substitute for this may be found. I have facts enough to convince me that thick clothing for Europeans in hot climates however inconvenient and even disagreeable its use may be in the commencement will prove ultimately the greatest preservative of their health. Our felt hat and our thin caps or hats allow the sun to pass with force little broken to the skin and the Scalp and to accentuate the action of the vessels without sufficient escape of moisture and the coolness that results from gradual evaporation. On the general surface of the body the sun does more than cause the sensation of fulness it actually penetrates. It is not the mere caloric that the ray[?] carries[?] with it into the body but matter

[222]

matter of light and electricity perhaps the material from which nervous energy is in a degree prepared and which furnished in too great abundance for the necessity exhausts to the vital power inducing listlessness and debility. The sympathy of the Stomach and of its accessory organs the Liver Pancreas with the state of the skin is well known and the direct application of the unbroken ray of the sun upon the skin of the white European is widely different than upon the dark colored Asiatic or African. It is not a great degree of actual heat that is injurious to the human constitution. I mean of heat produced by ignited or burning substances. Man can bear an extraordinarily high temperature provided this be not that of the sun. He can suffer it whether it be dry or moist provided his own skin throws out much moisture. The Bakers at Bokhara go into a large Oven to strike the cakes of bread against the side and roof of the enclosure which has no opening save an oval or conical slit as doorway or mouth. They do the same thing to detach and bring out the cakes or loaves and to keep the fire at a certain degree which is judged of by their own experience in feeling and by its effects upon the surface of the bread. I examined the mouth of an Oven at Bokhara in which one Man was employed in entering and coming out every ten seconds, that is he went in and stuck up a piece of Dough or cake on the inner surface which occupied about 8 or 10 seconds

223

he was an equal time occupied in the apartment in which the oven was situated in recovering the bread in his hand, in dashing water on the Charcoal when too hot and in taking out the cakes singly when baked sufficiently in throwing them upon a frame of wicker and in dashing upon the hot surface a little water with his hand from a large dish placed in a roof joint at the outside of the mouth of the Oven. Persons who are new to the business cover their mouths with a cloth until they are fully conversant with this employment but adepts despise this precaution. The temperature of the air in the Bake house was 84° as soon as the Baker had come out of the oven. Fahrenheits Therm[ometer] was held just within its mouth two feet at least short of the point to which the Baker advanced within it and was then kept during the interval he employed in the out-door work which seemed to be about equal to the period occupied within the Oven. The Quicksilver rose about 15° and fell five° during the time he was within the Oven. Replaced it gained about 15° more and lost some degrees but went on accumulating until in about 8 or 10 minutes it had reached the height of 185°. As the instrument was graduated only a little above boiling water I was fearful that a sudden expansion from the fire being fierce might break the Tube. The person who held the instrument had the inside of his arm slightly scorched although he was defended by a sleeve wrapped round with

[224]

with a handkerchief. Bakers will pursue this branch[?] for several hours perspire profusely but as far as I could learn are not subjected by this occupation to any disease. I entered the Oven but the sensation of heat on the edges of the eyelids was so violent as to oblige me to retreat. This effect is stated to be speedily overcome and from the great numbers of persons thus employed without any complaint or without receiving any particular gratification in enhancement of risk or inconvenience it may be fairly concluded that they are not materially if at all injured by its prosecution. Yet they are greatly exposed to a temperature greatly beyond that given by the solar ray even in tropical climates. It is true that this condition is alternated with an equal degree of time passed in an atmosphere from 80 to 90. Still the time in the extreme heat under the circumstances of alternations is on the whole so considerable as to lead to suspicion that in the suns ray there is an Agent more detrimental to health than that incurred by matter of heat alone. Upon this point farther part[?iculars] are wanting.

Rabat Karowal upon the Desert of [blank] has two buildings of which one is a Saraee and the other a Reservoir of Rain water domed with brick. The former consists of a Corridor which surrounds a large square area 150 feet in diameter vaulted and

225

domed of brick and mortar without a particle of wood or iron in its composition. The pilasters serve as chimneys. There are four entrances from within the Area and the whole might accommodate a hundred fifty horsemen. The principal gateway fronting the South has had its face decorated with glazed Tiles of which the

ornaments have principally been disposed in that form called Islumee[?] and consisting of various semicircular and other sweeps and bends of graceful direction. It is said that the followers of Mohamet had an ornament affixed to their Turbands or to their breasts which served to distinguish them. This proving ultimately unnecessary its remembrance was perpetuated by a modification called Islumee much affected in all Mahometan decorations in former times and not very dissimilar to some of the running and fanciful figures in Cornices and Friezes amongst the Grecians. These buildings are of great public utility and reflect credit on the benevolence as well as the modesty of their founder whose name is not to be met with but they are attributed to Abdoollah Khan. There are here two wells of sweet and cold water.

Note for 22^d Geographical Direction E 33^oS. Ten miles to Korek or Keruk a small village on the edge of the desert at the last canal of water. Korek a thousand yards off to S.E. Zerabad a village of [illeg.] or [illeg.] $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile off N^o The road a little crooked but good. Less and less cultivation

[226]

as we proceed. Several scattered villages. land strongly impregnated with Salt.

Even^g July 22^d Morn^g of 23^d

Marched at Sunset. Soon reached the border of the desert and began a very gentle or just perceptible ascent continued for five miles when having crossed the brow of an eminence we began to descend more abruptly for some hundred yards and passed an encampment of carters carrying off Gypsum from a Quarry close to the road. Advanced without any particular incident to the Surae or Ab Abdun of Kurawal. Road in some places stony in others sandy but the former in greater proportion. Distance marched about 4 Fursukhs or 22 miles. Direction E 35^o S^o. Road from Buhawoodeen being towards N 40^o W. Abdun of Boozache bears S^o 44^o E, a building left of the road near it bearing E 40^o S^o. Little verdure. Many flocks of sheep.

Night of July 23^d. Morning of 24th

The plain throughout the march very level. Its surface hard and sometimes a little gravelly with scarcely any vegetable. At the end of the first Mile and a half reached the Kosh Surdaba of which the bearing was taken from the Karawul. After having been out an hour we we [sic] passed a stone indicating the end of the first

227

the first Fursukh from our Camp. Another hour took us to the second Stone which we found about a mile beyond the Robot of Boozache the building seen bearing E 40^o S^o from Karawul.

Adjoining it was a Surdaba almost dry. This third Fursukh also performed within an hour brought us to the Robot Surdaba of Kukker constructed by the Father of Mookkum Jan now Dustur Khanche (Napkin Keeper) to the King, a work executed at the expence of the former as the price of his release from slavery, being a slave of

Shah Murad Begh. The Surdaba being full of good water we encamped at it and halted till the following afternoon. Perceived some hills lying between N^o 23^o E and N^o 64 E. These are called the Mountains of Kurnab and comprise a chain stretching between Shehr Subz and Sumurkund. They seem to be on a line from W 40^o N to E 40^o S. The nearest are 30 Miles distant. The most remote of the Chain are just visible. Bearing of Kukker from Boozache S--38-E Distance of the March 3 Fursukhs or 15 miles. No habitations no cultivations. Desert no water except at the Surdabas. The Surab or appearance of water in several directions. Corn shrubs on the verge of the illusion appear like large bushes whilst Camels at an equal distance in another directions without Surab seem to be less tall yet the former do not exceed 18 inches or two feet in height

236

Oozbukistan

Near the right bank of the Oxus, Ammoo or Jihoon July 25th 1825.

Night of July 25th Morn of 26th

The road continued for two Fursukhs towards S 40 E. In the latter part of the bearing it became a little crooked winding amongst hillocks of clay and sand but these did not extend to any considerable distance and the path as it skirted them turned gradually towards E 35^o S. At the end of the next Fursukh or 3½ Fursukhs from Kubker we reached the Surdaba of

237

of Ashook a small domed building to the right of the road containing some water but considering that it was not salt of the worst quality. Three quarters $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Fursukh further on to E 30 S^o we arrived at Khoja Moobaruk a small village but the moonlight shewed us nothing but a few broken mud walls to right and left and a few pools or rather puddles of stagnant water. Turning still further to the left and marching towards E --15 S^o though the barking of dogs was heard in various directions we saw no signs of habitations till we had proceeded another Fursukh and a half when we came close to a Kishlak or rather a camp of Khirgahs $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Fursukh more to E 30 S^o brought us to the eastern extremity of Mymunak a large village where we encamped. We began our march at dusk on the evening and when we halted it was near day break. --Night of 26 - Morn of 27.

Marched from Mymunak in the middle of the night. The first part of the road lay over a dry plain so thickly covered with the Shootun Khar as to confine its breadth within narrow limits. This continued for little more than a Fursukh when the plain became more bare and the second Fursukh ended in the large village of Kasan. Thus far the direction was to about E 50 S^o Advancing the road for some distance was crooked till it had cleared groups of houses a short way from Kasan. As we approached Kurshee 2 ½ if not 3 Fursukhs from Kusan numerous clumps of trees gave a little variety to the aspect of the plain and when morning dawned we

had again a view of the mountains of Shehr Subz. Half a mile to the N westward of the town we found the Shehr Subz River a shallow and irregular stream but several yards broad (average 20) We forded it close to a brick bridge of nine (9) arches broken down at each end and passing through the skirts of the town alighted and encamped where we halted last February. Bearing from Kasan E 23° S. For Events at Kushee see much farther.

[In pencil] 19th July 1824 [?1829] Dehlee WM [?WF] [Apparently not WM's handwriting]

[338]

Return from Bokhara

July 28th - 29th - and 30th at Kurshee

Evening of the 30th prepared to march and later at night left our ground following for about a mile the eastern outskirts of the town the direction a little W of S°. Thence we proceeded for about 2½ miles farther to S° 30 W where we entered a village. Not many hundred yards took us through it and 1½ or 2 miles farther towards SW across a large plain which however had been covered with crops of Wheat and Barley brought us to the skirts of Karra Tippa a large but scattered village. After travelling within it for 5 or 600 yards to S° 20 W the road assumed the direction of W 15° S but was very crooked and after winding along it between mud walls of enclosed Orchards for 1 ¾ Mile we reached and encamped on the end of the Desert. This place contrary to expectation we found to be well supplied with water from Mains.

July 31st Karra Tippa

The Desert has all one character in the neighborhood of Kurshee. It is for the most part flat from two to three Fursukhs it begins to be a little more irregular and thence to the River consists of hillocks and low ridges, flats of rock, of indurated clay and of sand. Our march of today was for three hours towards S° till we reached a broken Surdaba named Khoja Moobaruk of which the ancient reservoir was filled with clay. Here we were somewhat perplexed by three paths but followed that in the middle which proved to be the right one and proceeded for four hours towards S° 30 or 35° East. We then turned in the direction of S° 28 E and in another hour

(339)

hour [arrived] at Kurkunjuk where we found a camp of about thirty Khirgahs pitched near ten or twelve small holes of which the water of some was brackish of others fresh but of a mawkish taste. It was remarked that our Horses drank that water which was a little salt in preference to that which was less saline but had an earthy smell and taste. Some impregnation proved greatly irritating at Kurshee to

the Kidneys and bladder. The urine was voided frequently and in small quantity whilst in one case there was an irritation resembling Gripes which was released by Clysters. The water generally was about thirty feet from the surface of the soil through yellow sand to a stratum that was brackish. The construction of the wells was rude and cheap consisting of Stones laid without mortar and the diameter about four feet. The jambs of the well ran about 3 feet above the level of the ground and a movable trundle of sticks with an axis laid on one end short and the other long being placed across the well a hair rope was laid over the trundle with a leathern bag at one end whilst a Mare, a Camel or two men pulled at the other and dragged up the water. But every Khirgah had a trundle, a leathern bag for taking up the water and one for carrying [illeg.] belonging to it nothing of this kind remaining at the wells. On one side of each well was a circular Reservoir which served for the use of the Camels and Horses the water being

[340]

being only from two to three feet high and on the outside was a small trough for Sheep and Goats. The Reservoirs and Troughs were filled twice a day for the Cattle which came in large Drovers morning and evening soon satisfied their thirst and marched back to pasture or to the vicinity of the camp[,] in the morning to the former in the evening to the latter. These Elats were Oozbuds not particularly civil. A boy sat upon the top of a low domed building constructed by some charitable person for the accommodation of travellers and whilst our men were eating within amused himself by throwing bits of earth at them. He was encouraged by some men however received correction with a Whip upon his legs and this proved of use in preventing farther impertinence than the occasional employment of the word Kafir in somewhat of an under tone. In the evening these people brought many Colts for sale but they were too small for our use. The plain was narrow sandy and barren - the sand occasionally taken up in long pillars from 3 to 500 feet but of no very great diameter. We moved at the rate of about four miles an hour steadily.

Aug^t 1st and 2^d

Proceeded by Moonlight - I brought up the rear and was saluted by a few stones however in stopping and turning my Horses head the assailants probably boys retreated with precipitation. Women and girls had come

(341)

to within a short distance from the edge of the road to catch a glance at the strange people who for the first time had come amongst them. The road a little stony and crooked. After marching to S 40 E 1½ hour at the rate of 4½ or 5 miles an hour we had ascended to the summit of a ridge or to a considerable extent of irregular platform of a surface differing between rock and sand.

Advancing for another hour to E 20° S we descended to a deep water course containing now only a few small puddles of salt water and lying from N Eastwards to S Westward. From hence we again ascended and marched for an hour and ¾ to E 30° S. At about 2/3^{ds} of the [illeg.] we passed a second Ravine on leaving which we took the circuitous road (we had followed when proceeding in our journey to Bokhara) from Kiz Koodookh to Kurshee. Three quarters of an hour more to the

Dokhturee Chaki or Virgins Well of Kiz Koodookh. We passed in approaching it nearly 150 Khirgahs belonging to Oozbuks of King Kooral. Our rate of marching did not much exceed three miles an hour after the first bearing.

Observations and Incidents

The water from the Dokhturee Chak was cold and said by the people in general to be sweet and well tasted perhaps only by comparison with that we had previously met with for some days. It was expected that the Elats might have made some opposition to [our] watering the Cattle from this well however this did not happen and as there were several smaller ones in the banks of a watercourse now dry

[342]

from which these people drew what they required during the day it is presumed that the water in them as was asserted was of equally good quality and therefore removed all source of difference. Early in the morning a drove of Mares with foals at their foot came to a well to drink accompanied by a smart Stallion like an Arab. He first came to the trough and having examined it motioned with his head as if he made a signal for drinking in which they came up and began to drink but were disturbed by the horse of a stranger which attracted by the Mares endeavored to get amongst them but was prevented by the Stallion which attacked him most vigorously and after a sharp contact succeeded in driving him off discomfited and wounded. The Stallion then went to the rear of the herd and putting down his nose laying back his ears and snuffing the air caused the Mares to understand that they must go to pasture. They seemed readily to comprehend his meaning and went off smartly he keeping behind and frequently looking back.

The Stallion is called Ogur[?] and has a herd proportioned to his supposed promise from fifteen up to a hundred. He is turned out with the Mares during the months of June July and August when he is taken up until the years following. It is said that there is seldom a mare[?] empty and the Ote Ogur or Horse breeders report that the Stock thus produced

(343)

are more vigorous than those yielded by Stallions tied up. I examined the Ogur of this Herd in question which consisted only of eleven Mares with as many Colts and Fillies and found him fat, slick, shining[?] sound and without material blemish. The Herd remained out night and day and I never saw Stock any where in finer condition than all the droves of this Oorough or Tribe. This class of Elats use not the milk of the Mares for Kimmis so that through this and many other instances it appears that young Stock will do well either at liberty or tied up. As many as a hundred Mares had been given to one Stallion with[out] any deficiency of produce. The build[?] was neat like Arabs with good action but rather small. I saw many herds the Mares good but some of the Stallions not well chosen in respect to their fore legs. The number of Camels of Sheep and of Goats were great that of Cows small. I found the Buttermilk of the Camel good. The vessels employed are bowls of wood which is probably on the whole the best material when well scoured with sand and rinsed in running water after having been once used.

[344]

The Elats say their Cattle are subject to few diseases. They themselves were never affected with the Guiney Worm, nor with the Yeia Afghanee or Aleppo Sore in the face, nor with Schrophula or Consumption. Small Pox visited them once in 12 or 15 years but killed few and I saw not any chronic diseases. The Male population had the true Oozbuk character of face. Their principal people sat by my Tent for several hours asking questions from me and answering mine. One of them invited me to visit his Khergah which was entirely new with white felts and red and white bands, the lower belts in imitation of small windows. This wandering mode of life seems to consist with the enjoyment of health but to an European must appear [illeg.] of any save the enjoyments of the most ordinary class. It is difficult to say what liberty the women enjoy perhaps they were enjoined to keep within the Tents to avoid being exposed to the sight of our people. When preparing to march Mr Trebeck and myself saw a kind of struggle taking place between some of the

(345)

the Oozbuds and our men. We saw an Oozbuk throw a Stone which was returned by the Hindoostanee who was struck and the contest now became somewhat general when we reached the field of action. Stones which were plentiful flew thickly and as the Oozbuds were at first in numbers somewhat exceeding my men the latter could only make a stand till strengthened by the accession of their comrades. I called and beckoned and laid hold of the arm of one of the Oozbuds with whom I had long been in conversation. He was an expert thrower and I had just caught him while stooping to gather stones. He had hit a man of ours very severely. Two Guns were fired in the Air which perhaps somewhat hastened the retreat of the Oozbuds although it had begun before our men shewing themselves somewhat expert in the use of the stone. A man had advanced before me in pursuit of the Oozbuk who had wounded him had even put his gun to his shoulder had been foiled by his Antagonist charging his place but had presented a second time and would have certainly brought him down had I not called on him to desist. A Stone from our men had hit the Oozbuk on the shoulder had bounded over his head with a spring that shewed the arm that directed it to have been a strong one. The Oozbuds ran up the sides of the mountains. The Sahibzada and myself did all we could to settle the business and in a

[346]

a short time tranquility was restored. We had received some bruises and the Oozbuds more. Some Oozbuds had seated themselves near a pile of Arms the Sipahes to whom they were entrusted desired them not to touch them. The former persisted and took up a Gun to examine it the Sipahes laid hold of it also. An Oozbuk struck the Sipahes with a stone and in a few seconds there was no small confusion. When affairs were settled I had no difficulty in convincing some of the Oozbuds that it was wrong to meddle with our Arms and especially when desired to desist. It was probable that the prohibition was not conveyed very civilly but it was understood and the Oozbuk might have killed or wounded some one in the crowd through discharging the piece amongst them. The Elders acknowledged this and said we

were Strangers Guests, but our Hosts were Oozbuks. We were welcome and there the affair ended. This Kafila Bashee said that if we had not resented the affront immediately the property would have been attacked and if the Kafila had belonged to any other description of people it would have been plundered.

August 2^d and Morning of 3^d

The journey of this day was upon the same line of road as that pursued when we were proceeding to Bokhara. From Kiz Koodookh the path was a little crooked and stony. We crossed three Passes or Defiles over heights of no great elevation and descending from the third after having been traveling for an hour and forty minutes arrived at the Wells of Chilboor another favorite

(347)

favorite Station for Oozbuk Elats. The water here is brackish and scarcely drinkable with the exception of a single well situated half way down the mountain however this is not perfectly sweet and only good by comparison.

From hence turning a little to the right and crossing a narrow flat of land which is frequently cultivated by the Kong Kooratees we proceeded between two low ridges of hills and in thirty five minutes from Chilboor ascended to a more open part of the Desert the bearing S-^o25 W. Advancing near to South we marched on for two miles without remarking any material change in the direction. We then turned to S^o 20^o E the road at times gradually descending and in 35 minutes arrived at our old camp of Sulah Khara.

The Reservoir for water was dry and a few hundred paces further a very minute rill of salt water trickled down the channel along which on our advance ran a small rivulet. We next advanced for 30 Minutes to S - SW^d then turned to S^o 5 E. Two hours more brought us to Shor Koodookh. Some water from several Salt spring ran across the road but the plain which we had before seen clothed with verdure was now as dry and apparently as bare of vegetation as if none had ever existed upon its surface. Notwithstanding the bad quality of the water of Shor Koodookh abundantly implied by its name we found it surrounded by Oozbuk Camps and in the earliest part of the morning the Elats were

[348]

were busied in drawing water for their Camels. We had heard too much of the ill effects of this water upon the Horses of Turkistanees and upon the men themselves to be tempted to stop and half an hour more to S^o 28^o E brought us to the broken Rabat Surdaba. Here turning a little to the left of the road to Khoja Salah in another hour we reached Morad Koodookh bearing from it S - 34 E. We pitched our camp near some Oozbuk Kirgahs from 3 to 400 yards distant from a ridge of low rocks.

[blank]

An Oozbuk at our last encampment earnestly advised us not to stop at Shor Koodookh or we should probably have to regret the loss of some of our Horses. Shortly afterwards a Momund Kafila Bashee said that he had been driven from the wells of Morad Koodookh by the Elats who stated that their contents scarcely

sufficed for their own Cattle. We had resolved however to make the experiment of softening the inhospitality of the Shepherds by a few pieces of money should they object to travellers for taking of that accommodation which was not prepared exclusively for their use. However they offered not the least molestation but like all the other Elats we had seen tendered Horses for sale.

(349)
Morn 3 - August

To Chilboor	1 H 40 Min	-	-	Miles	8¼
Next bearing -	35	-	-	-	3
<hr/>	2	--	-	--	8
Suldh Khana	35	-	--	-	2½
Next bearing[?]	-	-	-	-	2 ½
Shes Koodookh	2	-	-	-	10
Robat	30	-	-	-	2½
Camp	1	-	-	-	5
				Miles	41¾

At Karra Tippa we were overtaken by a Yasawul sent by the Tora for the purpose of furnishing facilities of accommodation in the road and to see us safely embarked[?] on the Oxus the limit of his jurisdiction no small one for a person of experience and quality [but] beyond the reach of a youth of sixteen with little education and that not of the best kind. On the third day we were overtaken by four persons who stated that they were deputed by the Dewan Beghee of the Tora who had the Ferry of Khoja Saleh and others in the lower part of the River to conduct us to one of those obviously that he might have the fees of the transport. To this proposition we refused to accede and after these people had accompanied us for two days they left our party and we heard nothing more of them. They wished that we should have come to terms with them and have made some pecuniary sacrifice rather than to submit to the inconvenience of going lower. It is possible that this might be a scheme of the Ferryman who was disappointed in his object as he did

[350]
did not dare to pursue it to extremities.

[blank]

(351)
[blank page]

[352]
~~were busied in drawing water for their camels. We had heard too much of the~~
[this page is a duplicate of p. 348-349]

[353]

Remarks on the condition of the tract lying between Bokhara and the River Ammoo partly in a military point of view and partly in relation to its susceptibility of improvement mixed with miscellaneous matter.

The Notes on the march will shew the generally sterile character of the country between these two points. At Kurshee the intermediate Oasis a station or town of good size situated in the centre of a large extent of flat ground well watered from the River of Shehr Subz fresh water is procurable along with butchers meat as beef with the mutton of Sheep and Goats, excellent bread and fruits in abundance. Wheat and Barley are both cheap but the grain is small and the latter is largely mixed with sand and clay. From Kurshee until the Ammoo is reached fresh water is scarce and that of good flavor still less common. In the hot season during the day the motion of the Surab and shallow pools and scanty streams of real water deceive the hopes of the thirsty traveller, the former through mocking his view with the image of large lakes fringed frequently by large bushes and by this[?] the [illeg.] effect of reflection and refraction where the locality of the Surab is surrounded by low plants and shrubs (See several tracts in *Le Journal de Physique*) and the latter through being so salt and bitter as not to admit of being drank.

And in the night did not the heat of the Atmosphere operate against the mind receiving such an illusion[,] the traveller on awaking from slumbers extended by fatigue would be tempted to believe the inemistations[?] of air which crackle[?] under his horses feet to be portions of fields of ice with which he is often surrounded

[354]

in the course of his march.⁴ There seem to be two sources of the salt water of the Desert one originating in the rain or snow water which has washed or run through Mines of Fossil Salt probably contained in some of the neighboring ranges though no mines are known to the public save those of Kobe Tun a range of mountains at no great distance from the left bank of the River; the second deriving from the water of rain or of snow superficially washing off the salt of the soil.

The salt bitter and brackish water of the Desert is perhaps for the most part if not altogether of the latter character and the gradual decomposition or by the actual combustion of the large assemblage of alkalescent vegetables which grow on the steppes and which are burnt by the Shepherds as a cheap and speedy expedient for promoting the production of those plants which afford sustenance for their flocks in Spring in Summer and even in Autumn although in the latter season an European Visitor would much question the sagacity of confiding such numerous flocks to a support apparently so scanty.

Here and there and almost close to Wells which contain salt or brackish water alone, water that is fresh and tolerably sweet and light is to be met with involving a question of some importance as to its origin. It would [be] too hazardous a position to advance that if wells were dug sufficiently deep the water

would be found sufficiently sweet for drinking and for culinary purposes and indeed contrary to experience as mines of salt though ordinarily

[page numbering out of order here]

(357)

found in mountains sometimes dip deeply into the earth below their bases. But generally perhaps it may be said that in these countries the deeper the well is the greater chance there is of the water proving fresh. At least this inference is made from some examination and it seems also presumable that the nearer wells are dug to the foot of the mountains *ceteris paribus* the stronger is the probability of the water collected in them [being salt? being fresh?] than if wells of the same depth are dug on the plains. That a very considerable quantity of fresh water does fall in the form of rain even upon the low places of this country is proved by the wet months of March and April of 1825 and by general report and it is presumable as the result of general experience that many more rain clouds are attracted by and burst upon the mountain ranges and highlands between Bokhara and the River Ammoo. The natural basins in the centre of which the Surdabas or Reservoirs for rain water have been formed are seldom of large extent but where the basins are clean and sound and the Domes constructed to prevent evaporation and the access of the Sun's rays there is generally a very considerable quantity of cold and tolerably well tasted water during the hot season. It has been remarked on comparing the localities of Surdabas that few vegetables grow in their vicinity and that the superficial strata of ground consist of sand clay or rock or of a mixture of two or of all of these materials. If the Dome cover the water completely the latter even at the end of the hot season is tolerably

[358]

Wells &c.

tolerably transparent even though it rest upon a deep bed of mud but if it be largely exposed to the direct action of the Sun it soon becomes green and if the exposure be partial it acquires a yellowish and brownish tint and its quality follows the depth of color being most unwholesome when most green. To reservoirs of rain water domes are absolutely necessary to preserve the sweetness and freshness of their contents and to springs these appendages were almost always employed in former times in Europe and frequently in Asiatic countries. It would form excellent matter for a Regulation if it were ordered that every well in India were covered with a Dome of brick and with its opening crossed by a strong bar of wood a form of construction which would not only tend to keep the water pure but prevent some of those effects of jealousy so feelingly deplored by my friend John Bardae[?] Elliott Esq. in a public letter to the Government. But it would evince a paternal affection for their subjects if the Government would go still further and construct large Wells on the principle of the Surdaba in localities where water of a good quality is scarce. If these be properly lined with brick work there would be no more danger of the Guinea Worm germinating in them than in a Well and this animal would never generate in the Stone Reservoirs of Bokhara were they not carried into them from the Drains. Perhaps covering those also would tend to check their development as well as to keep the

(359)

the water itself in a state of purity. But nothing of a nature of public benevolence is to be expected from the nature of an Oozbuk education. A Durraanee of rank told me that if amongst the nobility of that order a man of great ability were to be discerned[?] all the rest would enter into a direct or tacit compact to destroy him. And I have seen enough of Oozbukistan to be convinced that the life of an individual gifted with strong mental endowments would be safe for a still shorter period in the latter country. What will furnish a more striking example of this probability than the fact of a Prince who had fortitude and enterprise enough in the disguise of a Dervish to visit and explore countries from which he was politically excluded being disgraced at Court and compelled through fears for this personal safety to affect habits of intoxication and almost indication of mental imbecility in consequence of having committed the crime of differing from his Father in sentiment upon the duties of a Sovereign? Returning to the subject of water it may be safely stated that the fall of rain annually upon the Desert is considerable and without this there could not exist that vegetable surface which however meagre it may look to an European does in reality give support to a vast body of animals. However where not collected in basins natural or artificial the absorbing nature of the soil, sandy hot and exposed without the cover of vegetables along with the vast evaporation continually taking place in a dry Atmosphere under a hot Sun soon dissipate the surface

[360]

surface water. And when the Mountains have not through a great elevation gained a temperature of atmosphere so cold as to retain much snow undissolved on their summits the Rain either slides down their sides and sinks into the earth at their feet or is conveyed to a short distance only by superficial currents. The Mountains to the East of Sumurkund which from a mere comparison of appearance with those of the Himaleh of which the distance is ascertained seemed about 200 Miles removed from me then within 100 Miles of Sumurkund are high enough to be constantly covered with Snow and form the source of the Ak and Karra Daria or White and Black Rivers. These passing through the Meeankal or "Intermediate Country, fertilize by irrigation a district of six or seven days journey in length and from one to two in breadth till their common trunk much reduced is lost in a lake in Karrakol. If these snowy mountains were wanting to Summarkund there would have been no large towns in the tract just mentioned for there could not have been a cultivable surface capable of yielding bread corn sufficient to support a dense population. And the snowy mountains of Shehr Subz perform the same office to the vicinity of Kurshee which without the aid of its river would have been just as incapable of furnishing much vegetable produce. Instead of supporting the given population

(361)

population of Bokhara and of its numerous dependant towns and villages the country would have yielded only a precarious subsistence to a comparatively inconsiderable number of Eelbaces or Eelats the nomadic Shepherd Tribes alone.

The mountain surface of the desert is not trifling[?] and it seems probable that if taps or wells were sunk at the foot of the ranges the rain water might be caught before it had become greatly diffused. The Virgins well at Kiz Koodookh is situated close to the basis of a range of low Limestone Hills, it is domed and its spring is copious and pure. Twenty yards lower down a scanty rivulet supplied from superficial ooziings perhaps from the same spring or stratum has its edge covered with a saline encrustation. But this rivulet is placed at the bottom of a long and gentle slope supporting a moderately high range of mountains. Hence it is inferred as not improbable that if Karez or covered drains were struck from the rivulet up to the basis of the ridge a stream might be collected ample enough to water a great spread of surface. In a word there is evidence sufficient for believing that by a system of Karez judiciously conducted there might be brought to sight underground beds of water which now only appear in the form of bogs or marshes in hollows or break out in very distant springs in low grounds or remain constantly pent up in cavities of no use whatever to animated beings. But the reflection again occurs of there being no reasonable chance

[362]

chance of such a system being ever instituted by the Oozbuks. In fact their population is not yet dense enough to press upon the means of subsistence and I ought not to be severe upon them seeing that in British India there has not yet been a single Canal cut for the purpose of irrigation. With concern as an Englishman I acknowledge the fact. The rainy season has hitherto been held to be generally sufficient both for the Khareef and the Rubbee but I am willing to hope that the representation which hereafter will probably be made may induce the Govt to make one experiment in a concern so fraught with interest to the Public. Under a sagacious and a vigorous rule Toorkistan might support probably ten times more human beings than it now possesses. But the extension of the human race is not likely to become a favorite object with Rulers of whose principality at least one half of the inhabitants are slaves. The country between Bokhara and the Ammoo presents considerable difficulty to an Army that should attempt to cross it in the hot season if the bashee did not sufficiently descry the want of fresh water of forage for Horses and of provision for men and make arrangements accordingly.

(363)

In the winter the want of water would be supplied by snow but fuel in larger proportions would be required. In the Spring from the melting of the Snow and Ice and from the fall of Rain in the latter part of the season the roads and the cultivable surface are inconveniently soft especially the former which is sometimes shut up between lines of walls. Near Kurshee the middle station at which place alone supplies of provisions and fuel could be obtained with certainty the road in many places has a character unknown in Europe. The soil contains some clay which soon becomes soft and is greatly retentive of moisture, when the line of road especially that which is very low and occasionally overflowed in the process of irrigating has acquired the consistence of puddle by the frequent passage of cattle this is worked up into a paste that in tenacity approximates to the nature of Bird lime or Glue and

cannot without much trouble be detached from the legs of Horses. It contains a large proportion of Salt partly alluvial partly the result of various combinations with the urine of Horses and of Asses. The acrimony[?] of this mixture is such that it not only speedily gives rise to cracked heels and even to that degree of it called Grean but actually produces a sore from which the lymphatics absorb a matter that causes them to inflame thicken suppurate and break out

[364]

out into that disease called Farcy in England and here known under the name of Budnam. In whatever manner this disease is generated it assumes an infectious or contagious nature and sometimes spreads with a rapidity that almost defies the efforts of art to arrest its progress without recurring to measures of energy highly prejudicial to the efficiency of an Army. These are not light mischiefs and without some knowledge of their being produced from such a cause could not have been suspected as likely thus to originate. To remove the acrid matter as speedily and completely as possible after the days march is terminated by washing with water and soap and when the hair has become dry to lay on a considerable quantity of rendered Sheep tail Suet seems to be useful. When the soreness and swelling have somewhat subsided rubbing the surface with powdered Rhubarb is also advantageous. The people of the country employ Cream and Salt and the addition of a strong solution of Salt in water boiled in Sheeps tail fat may be considered as a substitute for Cream which cannot be had largely. Buttermilk might also supply its place but this application must not be long continued or be used with force or it will tend rather to keep

(365)

keep up than to allay irritation. If before the Farcy Sore be generated the legs be well and frequently washed and the skin be scarified through its substance so as to give vent to the fluids below it and especially if the circulation in the skin be quickened and the vessels emptied by steaming with the vapor of water sprinkled especially with stones the breaking out of Farcy may sometimes and indeed not infrequently be prevented. And if the sore actually form the often repeated application of strong camphorated spirit to its surface accompanied with such rubbing as is sufficient to break down the new flesh prevents that poisonous matter being thrown out which taken up by the vessels converts a disease first confined to a part into a constitutional malady. But it is obvious that these means are with difficulty employed on a large scale. In hot weather without very great care indeed if the marches be long and if the pressure from the saddle be not nicely adjusted the skin will be injured under the saddle and the back become sore. The skin is killed[?] in very hot weather in a very short time but the same pressure in cold weather produces little or no inconvenience. Fomenting the bruised parts [illeg.] with hot Sheeps tail fat seems to quiet the hurts sooner than

any other application and powdered Rhubarb is preferable to every other means after the skin has been destroyed but the eye of the master must frequently be

directed to the sore and if the Fly blow upon it the Maggots must be removed before they burrow deeply. Rubbing the backs before saddling with Soap and water in a strong lather seems to be useful as a preventive of mischief. The Natives of this country attach great importance to the mode of giving water preferring to allow the Horse to drink only when perfectly cooled after the march and then only in check not allowing him to take as much as he desires to drink. The water met with on the road and which from the pressure of thirst the horse is disposed to drink often disorders him even though no materially saline impregnation be detected by the taste and it be only mawkish. The most obvious effects are produced upon the Kidneys and the Intestines. In the former the Urine is frequently voided in the latter there are Gripes. The former ceases on a change to better water but the latter must be remedied on the spot or they may prove fatal. Glysters in any large quantity as from a Goats skin bag and about two pounds of warm Sheep tail fat seem to be highly useful in evacuating the hinder[?] portion of the Intestines and

[367]

and in stilling the irritation in their fore parts.

Food on long marches in hot weather should whatever its nature be given in small quantity for it is less dangerous that the Horses belly should almost cling to his back than that he should be troubled with indigestion and with the depositions of fluid which I have seen ensues[?] from this affection how ever repugnant the effect may seem to be to received notions.

There sometimes is a night so cool or rather cold in the hot season as to be almost disagreeable to the feelings of persons whose bodies have been just before greatly heated and if in such nights Horses be not warmly clothed great stiffness in their movements will be found the following morning. This circumstance though incidental only necessitates clothing of considerable thickness and the Oozbuds aware of this necessity always employ a thick covering to the loins and upper part of the Croup. This as they say prevents the Sun burning the back during the day and the cold from producing rheumatism when happening during the night. The inconvenience arising from it is that its use rubs off the hair and in long campaigns also the skin from the point of the Hips leaving a bare place which is always a blemish.

In this traverse the fore feet should be shod but in general there will not be any necessity for shoeing the hind feet and this ought to be avoided when not really required as in long marches Horses which have not been previously shod on their hind feet are particularly

[368]

particularly apt to cut their legs. It may be observed in regard to their [illeg.] that if forage of the usual kinds be not readily procurable in the hot season Grapes and Melons both of which are found in profusion will serve advantageously as a temporary substitute. Melons are largely used by the Toorkmans for feeding Horses and both at Shibbergan and Akche about four pounds of Grapes are given along with barley to a Horse as a feed daily.

It cannot be ascertained exactly at present by which line of road the Army of Alexander advanced when it proceeded from Persia towards the Country of the Getee* and of the Sacee but speaking under correction as not any of the Historians of his Expedition are at hand it presumed that he proceeded from Herat or Meshed across the country of Meer or Mowz in his progress too Marcananda or Sumurkund which terminated according to some his progress in this direction. Mowz as appears from the impression on

Note * *[This footnote extends over the lower half of this and the following five pages. For the reader's convenience we have consolidated it as running text. Ed.]* The Getee were probably the Scythe or Kathaee perhaps the Kathaee or Chinese who may then have occupied Sumurkund as their Historians are said to assume. It is a fact somewhat in proof of their assertion and of tradition that the Chinese had possession of the country of Sumurkund in the [time] of Ameer Tumoor and ceded it as a Dower to this conqueror of a Princess of the Imperial House. And by those who pretend to an acquaintance with the political affairs it is stated that the Great Khan has not wholly lost sight of a condition in the Marriage Settlement which affords a claim for the resumption of the country. It appears that the Chinese certainly possessed the country of Kashkar and Yarkund prior to the time of Chungiz

369

Chungiz Khan and that they asserted this claim when they expelled the Khan the Khan [sic] of Kashkar. It would therefore seem not improbable that either the Chinese themselves or some of their Tributaries did at a former period actually hold Sumurkund.

It is a very small stretch of etymological privilege to suppose that the Grecians adopted the appellation Getee for Kathaee the latter[?] of whom at this moment occupy the Meankal or country between Summurkund and the ancient Kheva of which it is possible if we trust to tradition Bokhara was a suburb or appendage. This tribe are said to be a colony of Yoogoors as as [sic] has been before observed and from their admixture with the Natives of the Great Desert or Steppe of Kepebad in this neighborhood have gained the designation of Kathaee Kipchak. They have lost every trace of their Yoogoor origin as to language speaking

370

speaking only Toorkee and Tajikee or Persian, have become Oozbuks in manners and appearance but an it would seem more warlike and gallant. Being within forty miles of Sumurkund the Mountains beyond which I saw most plainly I felt a strong motivation to visit that City but anticipated only a refusal from a Sovereign greatly jealous of Strangers and whose mind was soured by disappointment at the resistance of the Kathaees whom he was then besieging I with much reluctance abandoned the attempt. It is not true as has been reported that the Mokbara or Mausoleum of Ameer Tumoor at that City is covered with pictures in porcelain of his various battles and

conquests, the Koshee being only of the usual description and of which the leading features

371

features are extracts from the Koran and that particular ornament derived from the distinctive form adopted originally by the Champions of Islam & now softened down and improved by the more graceful sweeps of Islumee work. Eshan Khoja states that the interior of several houses in Sumurkund is lined from the floor up to the Surbase with large planks of white Marble but generally the City itself since its occupation by the Oozbuds is in a declining condition. Having said thus much respecting the Getee it would be unjust to the Sacee not to remark that these are certainly the former inhabitants of a portion if not of the whole of the Great Kipchak Desert on the right bank of the Sir or Jaxartes (In Chuk Syrtis) or Desert of the Chaks, Kipchaks). This people split into two great divisions one of which crossing from the right bank of the Sir took the country between that River and

372

and the Ammoo afterwards in like manner passed to the left bank of that River have lately through the Kattaghan Ooroogh or Tribe have conquered the north eastern portion of Ancient Khorasan including Budukshan and have wrested all the acquisitions of Ahmed Shah from the house[?] of Kabool up to the foot of Hindoo Koosh. This emigrated branch assumed the Title of Oozee or Oozum Begh I myself a lord by corruption became Oozbuk while the resident branch were named perhaps as a term of reproach Kalmak or Stayers[?] and who were conquered by the Chinese and distributed partly in front of Eela Aksoo &c. and partly through various provinces of China Proper. (For further particulars see my public letters from Ladakh). This Saccee called by the Tibetans Sok-po a inhabitants of the country of Sok were too well known

373

to the latter by the ravages they occasionally committed in their incursions into the territory of Ladakh and of which several proofs were seen in ruined villages by Mr Trebeck and myself on the old road to the province of Khoten pursued as far as the [blank] Lake in the year 1821. The final irruption[?] of the Kalmaks into Ladakh took place in the reign of Arungzeb when they were resisted by the Imperial Army under the command of Ibraheem Khan the Son of Fidaee Khan the Governor of Kashmeer. Their defeat was more due to their over superstitious ignorance than to the prowess of their enemies. This irruption was made from Khoten from which province they were expelled by the Chinese & since this occurrence the former great commercial road through Gurtokh to Khoten by the former commercialists of Hindoostan has been wholly shut up.

(369) [*Main text continued from p. 368*]

on Coins found there and in the tract lying betwixt[?] it, Khiva and Bokhara and from their greater[?] decomposed condition as well as from the style of their execution anterior in date to the medals of the Helleno Bactrian Dynasty as well as from other evidence appears to have been held by a people who had made no inconsiderable progress in the arts of peace and of civilization. It is therefore inferred that this tract presented not then such a continuance of obstacles as are now met with and which considerable enough even to a Caravan would be still more formidable to a large military force as far as the scarcity of water & provisions is concerned. Notwithstanding the state of desolation to which these countries and this line of road were reduced by Chungiz Khan the want of accommodations was readily overcome by Nader Shah when he traversed them in his expedition against Bokhara through the commanding influence he had established

[370]

in Persia which enabled him to make adequate arrangements in regard to provisions and which it would be difficult for the leader of a foreign force to effect without a great expenditure of time. The well imagined but ill executed expedition of Tumoor Shah for the purpose of taking Akche and of driving Shah Murad Begh across the Ammoo at the Ferry of Killif was performed in respect to provisions with facilities little if at all inferior to those possessed by Nadir. The command of the River Ammoo from Oorgunj upwards might perhaps suggest the expediency of striking out new lines of road but according to all accounts none of these would be equally easy with that of Movr were this at the command of the Invaders whether the object of the expedition be Persia or Hindoostan.

(371)

Of the Genealogy of Hyder Shah
the present King of Bokhara

The treatment experienced by Woman in these countries is so undeserved so unnatural so degrading and so disgraceful in the eye of an European that a traveller of European origin who knows the value of the sex fails not to seize with some thing like avidity the few opportunities which may occur to him either of asserting her claims and rights to a higher rank than she has obtained in a demi-civilized state of Society or to the consequence her birth may occasionally confer even on her imperious and tyrannical Lord, and through her on his progeny. Meer Ameer Hyder in his own person affords an example of power derived from this source.

[372]

In few countries have forays been pursued with greater perseverance than those then practised upon the border territories of their neighbor than by the Kings of E[illeg.] and of Tooran respectively. And this custom was too much in accord with the habits of the Oozbuds when they became the rulers of the latter country to be relinquished. At one of these expeditions in which the City of Meshed was surprised and taken the daughter of a Syyud fell into the hands of the Victors and was

transferred to the Seraglio of the Monarch by whom she had a son who ascended the Throne of Bokhara. From this line sprung Abool Fyz Khan the King of Bokhara at the time his country

(373)

country was invaded by Nadir Shah. To a man who for habits of the most unrestrained devotedness to effeminate and licentious pursuits might fitly have served as a parallel with his contemporary Mahmood Shah the Emperor of Hindoostan no mode of averting the Storm which threatened not merely to avert the course of his sensual gratifications but to overthrow his throne and involve his country in destruction appeared so effectual in prospect or so easy in performance as that of unconditionality submitting to the will of the Persian without a struggle. And in the prosecution of this unmanly idea Abool Fyz Khan the descendant of Chengiz Khan and of the Syyud Dame more anxious to preserve his life and to retain

[374]

retain the power of following his favorite engagements than to emulate the example of his ancestor temporarily committed the sacrifice of estranging himself from the pleasures of the Harem for the ignominious purpose of laying the Keys of his Fort and tendering the possession of his Throne to his adventurous antagonist. Nadir then influenced by more magnanimity than governed his conduct in latter time declined availing himself of the occasion farther than by demanding a daughter of the degraded Sovereign and a Quota of five thousand Horsemen. The Princess was given in marriage to Shah Rokh Meerza and had one Son called Nadir Meerza who by the advice of his Mother deputed two of his Sons Youths about 17 or 18 years of age to solicit the assistance of Shah Murad Begh against Futteh Alee Shah who then as it was supposed meditated an attack upon Meshed. The impolitic and treacherous Sovereign after receiving and dismissing the Princes caused them both to be assassinated upon the bank of the Moorghab. Futteh Alee Shah afterwards attacked and took Meshed and put to death Nadir Meerza along with all the males of his family. The person appointed by Abool Fyz Khan to the command of the Detachment furnished by him to Nadir was a Servant called Reheem Khan

(375)

Reheem Khan an Oozbuk of the Mungert Ooroogh or Hord and in no wise related to the royal family. This individual accompanied Nadir Shah in his expedition to Hindoostan and went him to Persia but after the assassination of his new master resolved to return to his native country. Reheem Khan had gained some military experience, had learned to become ambitious under the auspices of Nadir and had amassed a wealth which with the influence of long command had attached his Soldiers to his fortunes. Thoroughly acquainted with the disposition of his old Master the ungrateful Servant availed himself of his military strength by ordering rather than entreating the contemptible descendant of Changez to welcome his return by advancing beyond the Gates of the City along with all his Sons and courtiers.

The imperious mandate was immediately obeyed and Abool Fyz Khan was rewarded by the Traitor with the loss of his life and by the death of ali his male issue effected on the spot. Strong in the veteran force at his disposal and in the terms originating from the atrocious act he had just committed Reheem Khan experienced not the slightest opposition in mounting the vacant Throne of which he held possession for six years and died a natural death. Immediately after reaching Bokhara the Usurper took to his bed a daughter of his murdered Sovereign but the lady disappointed his hopes of giving him a Son and remained for some time a childless Widow.

[376]

[3 words illeg.] At his decease Reheem Khan left several sons all young and none evincing any promise of considerable talents. One of his Nephews called Danial desecrating the weak state of the probable successors and being a man of some ability seized the reins of Government under the title Wollee Nama but spared the lives of his Cousins and made a provision for their subsistence, an incident somewhat pleasing to relate as belonging to a member of a country in which two of [9 words illeg.] His occupation of the Throne seems not to have been disturbed and he also died a natural death after a reign of [blank] years. Towards the end of his rule he added the appellation of Huzrut Ameer to his former title and since his death he has been called Shah Danial. His Son who whilst young had no other than the usual designation of the oldest Son of a Begh than Beghee Jan ascended the Throne under the title of Shah Murad Begh having previously espoused the daughter of Ahmad Fyz Khan left a widow by Reheem Khan and who died only two years ago. She presented him with a Son Meer Ameer Hyder now about forty eight years of age. Shah Murad Begh inherited the title with the throne of his Father without assuming any other designation. But Meer Hyder increased his distinctions by having engraved upon his Seal Meer Hyder Pudshah Ameer ool Moominin. But this Potentate has been not more steadily attached to his forms of title than to other objects and his present Seal bears no other title than Syyud Ameer Hyder Padshah. Upon what a foundation the title of Syyud appears is

(377)

is left for others to determine and the appellation of Chungezee rests upon the merits of his mother so that in this instance a female gives the honor of descent from the Prophet and from the Mogul Conqueror. The title of Padshah is a complete novelty amongst the Oozbuds and like that of Syyud has been first adopted by the present Monarch. It would probably have been considered as a great innovation in the customs of the Oozbuk, had any individual not taken it up in former times for previously to the usurpation of Reheem Khan the regal Dynasty of Toorkistan directly descending from Chungiz had no other title than that of Khan as Abdool Fyz Khan, Abdool [illeg.] Khan &c. It is whimsical enough that the Grand Signior should have no higher title than that of Khoon Kar or spiller of blood whilst an Oozbuk affecting to be descended from Chungez the destroyer of hundreds of thousands of Moosalmans should have taken to himself the dignity of Commander or Defender of the Faithful. This title however has been not without other candidates for its honor,

and the late Prince of Oorgunj had inscribed upon his Seal Ameer ool Momeneen Muhammed Reheem Pudshah by virtue of possessing within his territory Khiva the former Capital of Toorkistan. Another aspirer to the same office if not wholly a sinecure was found in Osman Khan the late King of Kokun whose seal bore the incipit Ameer ool Moosleman. Just before his death Osman Khan deputed Meerza Abdool Jowaid

[378]

his Physician to proceed to Kashmeer in charge of a very large Ruby there to be cut into the usual form of the Seal of the King of Kokan. The Crust[?] of the Jewel when in its rough state gave promise of great beauty but when stripped off disappointed the hopes entertained of its immense value by not reaching even so deep a color as that of the rose. In a Note respecting Mahummud Hoosen the present Heir Apparent known by the name of Tora Jan I have stated that he is the only legitimate Son of the present Monarch and lives in a state of disgrace. His Mother is a daughter of the house of Khoja Joee bar (running water) several Members of which I was acquainted with superficially. This is now the richest family in Bokhara, probably in Toorkistan, and as their affluence sprung out of such an occurrence as lies far out of the ordinary current of affairs in Europe its relation may furnish a trait of Asiatic superstition for which a parallel may not readily be found in the annals of other countries. The descendants of Mahomet instead of being ordinarily called Sy'yud are named Khoja or Khojizada and one of these in somewhat low circumstances was an attendant upon the Court of a former Khan or Sovereign of those countries said, but with what foundation may be doubted, to have been Abdoolah Khan the munificent founder of so many public works as Surdabas and Robats or Seraees. In a moment of familiar

(379)

familiar converse the Khan asked the Khoja in what he considered the greatest gratification in this world to consist to which the latter who perhaps was not wholly unused to scanty meals replied in eating largely and in digesting well a sentiment which may find supporters in Europe amongst those who may have passed the meridian of life. The Prince surprised at the nature of a reply wholly unexpected from a person supposed to be somewhat abstracted from enjoyments of this description frankly expressed his sentiments in [blank] terms and in a tone which somewhat bordered upon ridicule. The Khoja somewhat mortified at the reception [of] an opinion perhaps hastily conceived and uttered without much reflection as to the impression it might make retired under feelings of irritation. It is conjectured that the Prince was no enemy to good living and too little apprehensive of "the horrors of digestion" to resist the temptation held forth by a favorite dish in which he indulged to excess and was shortly afterwards seized with symptoms of flatulent Colic. These proceeded rapidly to such a length as in the opinion of the Monarch immediately to endanger his life.

Either from his own reflections or as is equally probable amongst a people so superstitious and credulous from the whispers of his courtiers a doubt crept into his

mind that he had treated the sentiment of the Khoja with indecent levity. The next Step in the progress of his thoughts was that the

[380]

the painful attack by which he was visited was either the result of the Khojas own power or a punishment inflicted by supernatural agency for the contemptuous treatment of a descendant of the Prophet. The fears of the Monarch increased with his pain and the efforts of his medical attendants failing to remove the malady the Sovereign directed that the Khoja should be brought to his presence. On his first appearance the repentant Potentate expressed his extreme concern and sorrow for the disrespectful manner in which he had uttered his mistaken ideas respecting the value attached by the Khoja to the faculties of eating largely and of digesting easily. He felt he said that his present condition was a consequence of his impertinence and was equally convinced that he should speedily die unless the Khoja would interpose his good offices between him and the malignant influence he had brought upon himself. The acute and artful Khoja after expressing his gratefulness that the Monarch was brought to a due sense of the impropriety of his conduct in throwing ridicule upon a matter which he now found was of most serious importance placed his hands upon the Stomach of the sufferer now partly distended with air and pressed it rather vigorously three times. Whether from the virtue of the sanctified hand, from the mechanical energy of the pressure, or from the incidental contortions of the almost palsied

(381)

palsied tube the pent up air was dislodged it is left for others to determine but its escape freed the Monarch from his danger and his fears and left him awed and gratified for the supposed cure. Giving way to the first impulse of gratitude he ordered his Secretary to make out an ordinance by which one third of the whole amount of the Revenue of the City of Bokhara from whatever source they might derive should be settled upon the Khoja and upon his Heirs in perpetuity. The last division of the property of the Head of the House after his decease amongst his three sons took up such a length of time in merely weighing out the Tilas of Gold as far outstrips all probability but appearances and general report countenance a belief that the wealth left was immensely great.

Sir John Malcolm in his History of Persia Vol II page [blank] has recorded some particulars of Beghee Jan and I am tempted to note an anecdote to the crowd of instances related of the trifling and incidental points on which the lives of Potentates have occasionally been observed to turn.

On the accession of Shah Murad Begh to the throne of Bokhara several tributary Chiefs were in a state of insubordination to his authority. Amongst others the Hakim or Governor of Shehr Subz would not submit to Reheem Khan on the plea that the throne belonged not to him but to the Chungezees in the family of Abdool Fyz Khan, that he owed him not allegiance and that he would retain the country under his jurisdiction until

[382]

until it should be claimed by an individual who had a legitimate right to possess it. The plea was specious and indeed [illeg.] and the succeeding Hakims have preserved inviolate the engagement of their predecessor through maintaining their independence maugre the repeated efforts made by the Kings of Bokhara to subdue them. The natural strength of the situations of the City nearly surrounded by water and the valor of its inhabitants amounting to from five to six thousand fighting men mounted upon excellent Horses of the Klinagus[?] Arab and other varieties from the Stem[?] of Mowz baffled the almost annually repeated attacks of Shah Murad Begh and will without exterior assistance completely defy the attempts of his less warlike son. The Governor of Kurshee named Bota Begh appointed to his office by Shah Danial refused to acknowledge his Son as his Lord. Shah Murad Begh whose original Name was Maksoom then about seventeen years of age with the impetuosity incident to the early period of life eagerly wished to avenge the slight and probably overlooked and neglected the necessities essential to the accomplishment of his wishes for in the expedition he conducted against Kurshee his army was defeated and dispersed and himself taken prisoner.

Bota Begh seems not have desired to take away the life of his prisoner but certainly contemplated the most effectual mode of

(383)

of making him appear so contemptible in the eyes of his subjects as to be unfit to govern them. The plan determined upon for bringing him under the punishment of popular disgrace was founded upon a thorough knowledge and feeling of the debased condition in which the softer sex are held by the Oozbuds. * A servant of Bota Begh to whom the charge of the Royal Prisoner was confided affected to the Prince to be secretly attached to his interest and highly desirous of aiding his escape which however was pregnant with difficulty as he was lodged within the Fortress which was vigilantly guarded and had only one Entrance. He could discern as he pretended no more effectual method than that Shah Murad Begh should assume the dress of a woman under cover of which and covered with her black horse hair veil he might pass through the Guard house unsuspected and having made his way to a certain [illeg.] which was named he would there find speedy horses and trusty attendants by whom he would be quickly conveyed out of the reach of his enemy. The unsuspecting [prince] grateful for the unexpected assistance fell into the snare attired in the habiliments of a female produced by his officious adviser who

[Again, we have consolidated a note which runs over the lower part of several pages. Ed.]

*I went to the Muzar or Mausoleum of Bawaas Deen to visit my friend the Kazee Uzeez Shah the Mootawulee or Guardian one of the best men I have known in Oozbukistan. It chanced that having seated myself in an outer court I became an object of some curiosity to the females of his Harem about 10 or 15 of whom came to the door to look at the Stranger on seeing which a Yeserwal[?] ran amongst them and chased them into the house with a Whip which he laid unmercifully upon several

384

several and some of whom were highly beautiful. The dress of a few was somewhat rich and the large white Turband was wore round the head the rest of the attire was Persian or Kashmeeree and highly unbecoming to say the least of it.

385

One of the daughters of Uzeez Shah was given as a spouse to the Son of the Kash Beghee and as one of the daughters of the King was married to the Son of Uzeez Shah it is possible that I may have witnessed the degrading [illeg.] of a female of the royal family having been threatened or even punished with

386

with the Whip by a Menial of a low order!!! On another occasion of the like nature I heard a man order the women to be driven back applying the same term that he would have used in directing his Servants to urge on his Horse. Hy Koon! Hy Koon. It is wonderful what a difference in the condition of woman is found in countries only a few hundred miles apart. In Tibut Polyandry. In Oozbukistan Polygamy. In Tibut female rule in the household. In Oozbukistan the most absolute subjection and the most abject submission. Both are extreme and both open to objection.

[384]

who to ensure the success of the enterprise or to meet any unforeseen occurrence attended the Prince to the inter Gate. Here Bota Begh who was awaiting in the Gate house the result of his measures asked the Agent what female he was conveying. The latter answered the daughter of a neighboring Chief who was in habits of intimacy with the Governor and who had been on a visit to the females of his family. Bota Begh enquired if she was married and being answered in the affirmative declared his intention of marrying her on the spot if he should approve of her appearance when unveiled. To prepare for the marriage ceremony he directed the Kazeer to be apprised of his intention and to be in attendance along with all the other Officers who usually are present at the performance of connubial rites. Shah Murad Begh stood in the Gatehouse overwhelmed with anxiety and expecting the discovery which would overwhelm him with confusion when a Horseman rushed into the Gateway and informed Bota Begh that a body of freebooters were at that moment committing great ravages in the vicinity of the City and unless immediately attacked were likely to get clear off with the booty they had taken. Bota Begh summoning to his aid every Horseman near the Fort directed the Damsel

(385)

to be detained until his return mounted his Horse and in the commencement of the attack upon the Banditti received a mortal wound. On this news reaching Kurshee the former dependent of Bota Begh thought it most consistent with his interest to afford that assistance in reality which he had before only affected and giving early

intelligence to his Prisoner of this most welcome event Shah Murad Begh hastened immediately to his Capital without merely enquiring into the motive by which his delivered [sc. delivery] was actuated.

As far as I can learn the principal merit of Shah Murad Begh consisted in being a bold successful and in reference to the state of military science amongst the Oozbuds a tolerably skilful Leader or more properly speaking Partisan. He was possessed with an exalted notion of the extent of his own powers of mind a circumstance which led him to despise and neglect the councils of others and of course led him into some errors. This self sufficiency has descended probably with accumulated energy to his Son who from all accounts is more intolerant of difference of opinion and with much more of school learning and especially of casuistical or polemic theology is a much less skillful Soldier but a better Lieutenant of Police though probably a much worse politician.

[386]

River Ammoo, Jehoon currently, classically Oxus. An European who for the first time comes in sight of this truly noble Stream after dwelling upon its surface with the satisfaction arising from the contrast it presents with the dry tracts he must have passed to reach its banks[,] from his habits looks with some anxiety for the kind of vessel by which it is navigated should he chance not previously to have been acquainted with its History. And he will scarcely credit that in a river apparently navigable of 16 days of 7 Fursukhs a day or 35 Miles or coarsely say 500 Miles from the Punj upwards to Oorgunj there is not a single vessel of any kind that bears a sail or even a boat with oars even in the flat ferry boats consisting of trunks of trees half flattened, tied together by clamps of iron and impelled by small crooked stems of trees which without being fashioned to the shape perform the office of oars. Horses are tied to both sides of the boat in the number of four or six to aid the boatmen[?] in a strong current or under a wind that sets down the channel, or

(387)

or when it is wanted to perform the trip quickly. Vessels with sails are wholly unknown to any of the inhabitants of the banks of the River except by hearsay but inflated skins serve to assist a single individual who is [illeg.] to its use in passing from side to side. It would not diminish his astonishment at the difference between the customs of Europe and of Asia in regard to the disposal of population.

In the former case the banks of such a River would be fringed with cities towns and villages, in the latter so far from there being any large cities there is not so much as a town of any considerable size. High up its course on its right bank there is an ancient Seraee, lower down at about a Kos distance from the stream is the small town of Huzrut Imam; still lower is the site of Termez reduced to fifty or sixty mud walled cottages and still further down on the same bank the inconsiderable Fort of Kilif with an appendage of houses perhaps a little more numerous. Khoja Saleh the next ferry had a small hamlet principally of Toorkmans destroyed last year 1824 by the Oorgunjees who put the Males to the sword and carried off the females into slavery. Such other hamlets as there were remained not in permanency but were merely the temporary places of residence of workmen with

the exception of the capital of Oorgunj and the situation of this from four to five Kos distant from the River scarcely entitles it to be taken into the account. Through this estrangement of the population of the country from the

[388]

the banks of the river one might be tempted to suspect that there existed some feature of extraordinary danger or of inconvenience in its vicinity as inundation, unwholesomeness, exposure to banditti to wild beasts or to some other mischiefs. Yet none of these has been discovered to obtain in a degree that should operate as a prohibition or in or indeed to an extent appearing in any degree dangerous. As the periodical rains take place in the cool season of spring are always moderate and as there is scarcely ever any fall of rain during the hot season when the snow melts under the rays of the Sun the inundation of the Ammoo when any does occur is gentle and regular never covering vast tracts of country as in British India. In fact in many parts of it the Toorkmans have cut mains from it for the purpose of irrigating their land a fact sufficiently indicating the generally regular condition of the stream. The banks are in some places low and moist covered with verdure in other parts high dry and sandy. Those of the former description are covered with Willows, Thorns, Ber Sedge, Reed and especially with the wild Liquorice little if at all inferior in size, in color and in flavor to that raised for the shops in the neighborhood of Pontifract and from the specimens I have seen conceive that the [illeg.] made from it might under equal management might be equally good. Silk is raised in very great quantity by the Toorkmans

(389)

insomuch that the annual duty of one in forty to the King upon it amounts to two Lakhs of Tengas or 50,000 Rs. Game of almost every kind is said to be met with in the Jungal in profusion but I have traversed a large tract without finding any thing save a few Pheasants although the ground bore abundant proof of the presence of Hogs, Deer, Leopards Tygers wild Cats and Hares.

The fishing of the River is likely to prove highly productive if properly conducted. Esham Khoja the Governor of Balkh told me that information was brought him of a fish having been discovered in shallow water in a cul de sac of the River and killed by several persons with Guns from the Fort of Kilif before it could regain deep water. It was reported to be as large as a Camel to have had small teeth and covered here and there with projecting scales. Its flesh was white and of excellent flavor. The reports of travellers who have skirted the banks of the River state that Fish of vast size have been observed but I saw only the back of one fish about two feet out of the water and as only part was visible I cannot speak to the size or to the kind but it did not appear to resemble the Porpoise. I was anxious to procure a specimen of one at least of the kinds of the Fish of the Oxus but was disappointed. There were no Nets and the person who usually amused himself with fishing employed the coarsest line and hook I ever saw used

[390]

for fish in fresh water the line being a piece of rope as thick as the little finger. However with an apparatus of similar description one of the Camel drivers in my party caught a Carp which as far as I could judge from the account given of its size, from the extent of one of his ventral fins and the thickness of a portion of the belly was not less than twenty pounds. It was a Carp and the very finest fish of the Kind I ever tasted and would have competed in excellence with the Trout of the Indus at Attok. In this part of the river the fish are disturbed merely by the traverse of the ferry boats. The bottom is partly sandy partly muddy and there are banks covered with weeds and islets with grass occasionally submerged. When my party passed at an early hour in the morning a small spot on a bank was discernable but three hours [later] the water had fallen a foot. The rise was owing to the melting of the Snow on the mountains in which the River has its rise but how the fall is produced is not known with accuracy at least to me. Accounts varying as to the termination of the Stream some assigning to it absorption by sand in the Desert, others its loss in a Lake or swamp and others again stating with more [illeg.] that it sinks into a wide opening or shoot at the foot of a range of mountains not very distant from the Caspian Sea. The King of Bokhara is not aware of

(391)

of the treasure he possesses in the three Russians he now holds in durance or detains until some fitting occasion for liberating them shall arrive such as the time when the Russian Army shall invade Oorgunj. A little kindness and the prospect of bettering their condition would induce these persons who have been Fishermen on the Caspian to renew their occupation and although the Oozbuds are little acquainted with any other form of dressing fish than that of frying them fresh or salted in Linseed Oil yet the mode in which the Russians would salt and dry the Winter[?] Salmon and would pickle the Sturgeon through the abundance of Vinegar which might be obtained at a very cheap rate might render Fish a favorite viand. Its flavor and its cheapness considering its easy transport would force Fish into the market and induce a vast consumpt under the patronage and authority the King might think proper to extend to its introduction and use. I have else where touched upon the improvement of which this country is susceptible in good hands and cannot but deeply regret that our unfortunate countrymen who have suffered so much in Southern Africa had not bent their steps towards the country of Budukshan which the tyranny of M Murad Begh has almost emptied of its inhabitants and which could well support a hundred thousand persons in addition to its present population.

[392]

I may be accused of fostering schemes of ambition but here there is abundant room for underlying speculations of this kind with no other chance of misfortune than that of warfare with a body of people incapable of prosecuting steadily a campaign and who are plunging deeper and deeper in barbarity and anarchy. A body of European Emigrants would speedily have allies in the natives of the neighboring districts tired of the confusion oppression and tyranny under which they have long labored.

[blank space]
[pp. 393 to 400 missing from the microfilm]
(401)

[blank page]

[402—427 blank]

[written on a small scrap of paper in a different handwriting]
M^r Moorcroft died in August 1825--so that this Journal is up to within a month of his
death

Bukhara and return from Bukhara
MSS. Eur. D. 254

ENDS

¹ This sentence apparently sic.

² This sentence apparently sic. Meaning not clear.

³ This sentence apparently sic. Meaning not clear.

⁴ The meaning of this sentence isn't clear.