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THE
ASIATIC JOURNAL

AND
MONTHLY REGISTER

FOR
British India and its Dependencies :

CONTAINING

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|--|---|
| Original Communications. | Missionary and Home Intelligence, Births, |
| Memoirs of Eminent Persons. | Marriages, Deaths, &c. |
| History, Antiquities, Poetry. | Commercial Intelligence. |
| Natural History, Geography. | Shipping Intelligence, Ship Letter-Mails, |
| Review of New Publications. | &c. |
| Debates at the East-India House. | Lists of Passengers to and from India. |
| Proceedings of the Colleges of Haileybury | State of the London and India Markets. |
| and Fort William, and the Military | Notices of Sales at the East-India House. |
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| riages, Deaths, &c. &c. | India Exchanges and Company's Secu- |
| Literary and Philosophical Intelligence. | rities. |
| | Daily Prices of Stocks, &c. &c. &c. |

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VOL. XII.

JULY TO DECEMBER 1821.

LONDON :
PRINTED FOR BLACK, KINGSBURY, PARBURY, & ALLEN,
BOOKSELLERS TO THE HONOURABLE EAST-INDIA COMPANY,
LEADENHALL STREET.

—
1821.

MR. MOORCROFT'S EXPEDITION INTO TARTARY.

Extract of a Letter from Delhi.

It is known at Umratsir, by receipt of a merchant's letter from Cashmeer, that Mr. Moorcroft has arrived safely at, and is now residing in the town of Ludaq, the capital of the country known by that name; that he has purchased shawl-wool to the amount of several thousand rupees, and has prepared for his further journey towards Cashghar, whither he will shortly proceed, and it is supposed safely arrive. The letter states that the cold in Ludaq is excessive, and that Mr. Moorcroft, and his associates and servants, are obliged to clothe themselves in felts and furs.

I send this interesting account of Mr. Moorcroft's progress with great satisfaction. Most people with whom I have talked about Mr. Moorcroft, and I fear the public generally, not only underrated this gentleman's enterprise and abilities, but in many instances refused him any credit, and often denied the truth of his assertions and statements. I fully expect that he will safely execute his projected journey; which will carry him through one of the most interesting and most unknown tracts in the world.

An inspection of the map will shew what an interesting route Mr. Moorcroft has to follow from Cashghar. He can go either across Tartary into Russia, or westward towards the far-famed Sumurqund and Bokhara.

Cashghar is now possessed by the Chinese, and has a Chinese force and Governor. Their Government is strict but mild.

Ludaq, you know, is to the eastward of Cashmeer, and is a wonderfully elevated and almost unknown region. It is peopled by independent idolstrous tribes of Tartars.

Further Particulars, drawn from information forwarded from Umratsir, by Merchants.

It is reported by the people who came in from Cooloo Chumbuh and the other hill states, that Mr. Moorcroft is still in Ludaq, employed in traffic. Some maunds of shawl-wool, which have been purchased, he has forwarded through the hills towards Nepal, thence to be sent on to Calcutta. He is endeavouring to establish a factory in Ludaq. Mr. Moorcroft has ten or twelve soldiers with him as a personal guard. Without arrangements with the Yarkundees, he cannot proceed further towards Yarkund: he has therefore sent on a trusty person to make these arrangements. Meer Izzut Oolah Khan, having a friend in Yarkund, has written to him to manage for the road being freed to them. Meer Izzut Oolah himself is along with Mr. Moorcroft.

Mr. Moorcroft probably writes to his friends in Hindoostan. His letters must be highly interesting. So far as has been hitherto ascertained, Mr. Moorcroft's progress has not excited jealousy. At Lahore and Cote Rangrah he was treated with kindness and respect. Meer Izzut Oolah, his companion, is a most intelligent and prudent man. He was a public servant under Mr. Elphinstone, when that gentleman went as plenipotentiary to Caubul; and Mr. Elphinstone will doubtless feel satisfaction in perceiving the enterprise and energy of a man brought forward by himself. If Mr. Moorcroft cannot return by Bokhara, through Ferghana, Meer Izzut Oolah will be able to conduct him from the Chinese frontier by the Yoususy country, into the valley of Peshawur. In passing from Ludaq to Cashghar and Yarkund, Mr. Moorcroft will have to cross the chief branch of the Indus which comes from the east.

ILLEGIBILITY OF NATIVE SIGNATURES.

To the Editor of the Asiatic Journal.

SIR:—Proverbial expressions are generally founded on the experience of mankind, and the "law's delay" is one which Britons know, perhaps,

too well, to doubt for one moment of its truth.

There are nevertheless some serious delays connected with our transactions

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from the exactions which the Hindoo agriculturist experiences from his creditor, and possessed of more aptitude for exertion, would (he calculates) soon realize a surplus income of two hundred rupees annually, at the very least; which, by merely placing it out at interest, would yield him, at the age of fifty or fifty-two, a fortune of 20,000 rupees. This too acquired, not at the expense of health or domestic enjoyment; but, on the contrary, health, comfort, even rural happiness, would have been his constant portion; and his circumstances would enable him to place his children in that happy course of life, under far more favourable auspices than those under which he began the world himself.

The effect eventually produced by such a change in the agricultural system would be felt insensibly. The Indo-British cultivators would employ native assistants, and the conversion of the latter from indolent, slothful and oppressed masters, into diligent and valuable servants, would exalt rather than debase them in the scale of society. It is however asserted, that in Bengal alone there is room for five times the number of Indo-British youth who

are now found in that Presidency, without their being even perceived in the country among so many millions of natives.

It is impossible not to feel a pleasure in contemplating the picture which such a mode of employing this part of the Indian population offers to our imagination. The link of connection between the European and the Asiatic would thereby become stronger: a more complete incorporation would ensue. The influence of country, of physical and moral habit, would unite the two extremes, by the grades of difference becoming less perceptible; and when that great discriminating property, the difference of religion, shall disappear, the elements would acquire a more active tendency to union, and we might reasonably expect that our Indian empire would not only surpass, in extent of dominion, as the French writer allows it does, that of the ancient dynasties, once sovereigns of India, but be of far longer duration than any former dominion, and the British power, character, name and language subsist for ages yet to come in Hindostan.

MR. MOORCROFT'S EXPEDITION INTO TARTARY.

To the Editor of the Asiatic Journal.

SIR: I have been anxiously, but vainly, turning over the pages of the Asiatic Journal for additional information respecting Mr. Moorcroft's Expedition into Tartary ever since your truly interesting review of Fraser's Tour in the Himalaya Mountains. If, Mr. Editor, you have anything additional to communicate on a subject that must have excited a lively curiosity in all your readers, I hope you will no longer withhold it.

Your obedient servant,

SPUR.

* * We should not have needed a spur if it had been in our power to

furnish intelligence of a satisfactory or authentic nature respecting Mr. Moorcroft's progress. The only information we are able to communicate rests on the authority of a letter dated *Kotghur, May 23, 1822*: from which it appears that our traveller had somewhat retrograded. The following is the passage to which we allude:—
 "Mr. Moorcroft was at Leh, the capital of Ludak, on the 3d of March, and likely to continue in that country for some time longer. The people attached to the Leh Court appear to have afforded him great satisfaction and attention."^{Digitized by Google}

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learning of his age, and in the powers of elocution; and that he was so skilful a performer in music, as to excite the admiration and envy of the acknowledged and most eminent masters of the profession. Lastly, as a proof of his humane and liberal spirit, it is recorded that the suburb of Baghdad called Kirkh, having been destroyed by fire during the reign of

Ul Wauthek, he distributed a million of dirhems, about £23,000, among the sufferers, to aid them in the reconstruction of their habitations; from which, and other instances of his bounty, he probably derived the appellation of the lesser Mämün."—*Vol. II, p. 149.*

I am, Sir, &c.

A. B.

MR. MOORCROFT'S EXPEDITION INTO TARTARY.

It is now some time since we had the pleasure to present our readers with any notices of Mr. Moorcroft's public proceedings, in the prosecution of the objects for which his last journey to Ludak was undertaken. We have not ceased, however, to feel an interest in the success of this enterprising traveller, and we have therefore received much gratification from the perusal of a series of letters, addressed to a friend and correspondent of his in town, of which we have been permitted to form the following abstract:

The ostensible object of Mr. Moorcroft's mission, is to procure for the Hon. Company's stud, supplies of the Toorkman horses, similar to those sent by the King of Persia to his Britannic Majesty, and which are objects of admiration to all connoisseurs in horse-breeding in England. The best means of effecting this seems to be traversing Chinese Toorkistan, with the permission of the ruling authorities, and visiting the countries in which exist in abundance the best materials for the breed of Toorkman horses, when all difficulty in regard to their acquisition will be speedily overcome, for the Toorkman is said to be not an original race, but to derive his strength and constitution from his dam, and his speed from his sire. Another and new species of the horse genus is expected to be procured from a part of the country of Chang-thang, called 'Kanree,' or snowy mountain. This is described as differing both from the horse and ass; not compounded of both as a mule, but a peculiar species, likely from its size and hardness to be of incalculable value in agriculture; and though it may probably be said to be the Onager of Pliny, or *Equus Hernionus*, it appears to be as yet wholly unknown to European naturalists.

In pursuance of these objects, Mr. Moorcroft was, in the latter part of March

1822, at Leh, the capital of Ludak, there awaiting the determination of the authorities, whose sanction was requisite to the advancement of these views, as also of others of much greater importance, which he had in contemplation, viz. those of rendering the western provinces of China open to British commerce. A Turanee merchant, in the confidence of the governor of Kashgur, had promised the exertion of his utmost influence to promote this latter object: but it would appear probable that Mr. Moorcroft might be detained several months at Leh before the result of these endeavours could be known to him, or his progress or future proceedings decided on. A visit to the British metropolis of India seemed desirable, for the advantage of personal communication with Government, and the obtainment of instructions on points of difficulty and importance; though, in the event of the Chinese governor's admitting the advance of the mission, with a restriction to any particular period of time, it would be necessary that Mr. Moorcroft should immediately avail himself of such permission, lest further misrepresentation and intrigue, arising from commercial jealousy, should wrest the opportunity from him. In the event of a decided refusal from the court and authorities of China, it is stated that a visit to the court of Indejan is contemplated, whence the establishment of amicable and commercial relations therewith is considered possible.

The highly desirable objects which may be effected by the success of Mr. Moorcroft's energetic exertions, in addition to the obtainment of horses, are access to the trade in Turkey rhubarb, to that of the silk and shawl-wool of Khoten, and of the Kirghis, Kasack and Kalmuk hordes on the highlands of Palmar, and on the border of the steppes which separate Chi-

nese Toorkistan from the empire of Russia. The Mogul merchants are stated to be decidedly in favour of the British intercourse with Toorkistan, anticipating from it benefit to themselves. The quantities of shawl-wool produced in the province of Ludak are said to be immense, and more than sixty thousand individuals obtain subsistence in Cashmeer solely by the shawl manufacture. Their wages, barely sufficient to preserve them from starving, though in a most plentiful country, with the grinding oppression of the present ruler, occasion frequent emigrations: an instance is mentioned of four thousand shops of shawl workmen having left the country in the preceding year, and six thousand more being expected to depart.

A very destructive epidemic had attacked the sheep in the year 1821, whereby their flocks were thinned in the proportion of nine in ten; yet the wool was very abundant, and indicated a vast remainder. The Hon. Company had made purchase of sheeps'-wool in districts where the disease had ceased; and the absolute necessity for coarse wool in England, for common cloths and carpets, considered with the high rent of land in that country, and the probability that no part of Europe can raise this commodity so cheaply as the wilds of Tartary, encourages the opinion that it might advantageously be made an article of transport to Britain, in barter for British manufactures; for, however dangerous may appear the suggestion of competition, in what has hitherto been considered a staple

of Britain, if it were satisfactorily shown that coarse wool could be furnished to the British weaver cheaper than that of the same quality produced there, the encouragement which it is desirable should be given to our manufactures, render the attainment of such an object worthy the consideration of those at the head of commercial affairs.

The difficulties of Mr. Moorcroft's journey are described as very serious, though the fair prospects of getting through Yarkund and Kashgur, and the advantages thereby attainable, render the delay, and expense by which the attempt to succeed is accompanied, perfectly justifiable. The hardships which the party suffer are occasionally great, living for months on turnips, dry unleavened cakes and Tartar tea, and resting at night on the floors of reeking huts, with their saddlecloths for beds and saddles for pillows, and surrounded by men and cattle as their companions in slumber: still all were healthy, and energetic in the cause.

The Rajah Runjeet Singh is said to have behaved with much kindness and attention to the gentlemen of the mission, and furnished a supply of matchlocks with bayonets, in case of their being requisite in making way through the Kirgibis Hored. The stages which the travellers were next likely to attain were Chinese Toorkistan, and Indejan, the capitals of Ferghana, where they were likely to wait till terms were adjusted with the King of Bokhara.—[*Cal. Journ.*]

PROFESSOR LEE'S EDITION OF SIR WILLIAM JONES'S PERSIAN GRAMMAR.

To the Editor of the Asiatic Journal.

SIR: I observe, in your No. 88, p. 350; and 90, p. 580, some discussion concerning two Persian lines which Sir Wm. Jones is stated to have omitted in his extract from the *Anwâr So-hallec*. Mr. Lee, and his reviewer Y. Z., with the book and the MSS. before their eyes, neither of which I have seen, will, I trust, pardon me if I suggest, that the first words of the verse quoted by them should be تاک *Tâ kĕ*, not تاکی *Tâ ki*, the second syllable *kĕ* short and unaccented, not *ki* long and accented. Assuming then the line to be تاک آرای مریاربت نانی

ای قیب the meaning appears to be this: "Is it to torment me for God's sake that you stay (watching), oh, guard!" (literally, do you not stay?)

It is the measure of the verse, Sir, which requires this alteration; and so strictly accurate is the construction of Persian verses, that I venture to appeal even against the writer.

HUMPHREYS GERRARD.

* * I hope Mr. Lee has not, in his new edition of the *Persian Grammar*, retained the chapter on Prosody. It contains the grossest errors, and can only mislead the learner.

MR. MOORCROFT.

SINCE the issue of our last publication, which contained an abstract of Mr. Moorcroft's proceedings and expectations, we have been favoured with the sight of a late letter from Leh in Ludakh, dated September 14, 1822, which contains some interesting particulars worthy of publication.

It appears from this letter, that on the day preceding the date on which it was written, the persons sent by Mr. Moorcroft to Yarkund had returned to Leh, with letters from the principal authorities there, the tenor of which was unfavourable to his wishes: so that he was compelled to abandon all thoughts of visiting that city.

It is known that this refusal on the part of the authorities at Yarkund to admit a British traveller into their territory from India, has been occasioned by the preponderating influence of Russia in that quarter, where she is endeavouring to secure, by gigantic strides, that commercial intercourse which might have been enjoyed by British merchants, if earlier or more decisive measures had been taken to ensure it.

Mr. Moorcroft was, however, on the point of setting out for Kashmeer, having already engaged the horses necessary for his journey, and proposing to commence his march early in October.

Among the interesting acquisitions already made by Mr. Moorcroft, in his progress through these elevated and imperfectly known regions, the following are, perhaps, worthy of enumeration.

1st. The discovery of vast resources of timber suited to ship-building, and sufficient in quantity to supply all the de-

mands of ship-builders in India for years to come. 2d. The discovery of a whiter and more productive kind of wheat than any variety yet known in Britain. 3d. The discovery of several sorts of barley, all more productive, and several containing more valuable properties for malting than those hitherto cultivated in England. 4th. The discovery of a plant that cures the rot in sheep, of which disease the late Mr. Bakewell asserted, that some hundreds of thousands died every year in Britain. 5th. The discovery of a hardy variety of hay, with which even the waste moors and heath-covered commons of England may be cultivated, so as to afford winter food for at least an additional million of sheep, while the quality of this food is such as to fatten them in half the time they would require to fatten on any other known forage at present in use. 6th. The discovery of a breed of mountain sheep, of which every cottager in England, not receiving parochial relief, may keep three with more ease than he can maintain a cur dog: so that every little farmer may keep a small flock of them on the present waste produce of his farm. This breed is secured, and arrangements are made for keeping a stock of them for the next three years.

If the remainder of Mr. Moorcroft's journey be as productive of advantage to his country as the former portion of it is likely to be, there are few travellers who will be able to enumerate greater public benefits resulting from their labours than this enterprising individual.—[*Cat. Journ.*

GRADUAL ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN CEYLON.

CEYLON.—REGULATION OF GOVERNMENT.

Present, His Exc. the Governor in Council.

A. D. 1818.

A Regulation for securing to certain Children emancipated by the Proprietors, or their Mothers, the full Benefit of such Proprietors' Intentions, and for establishing an efficient Registry of all Slaves, and abolishing the joint Tenure of Property in the same.

1. WHEREAS his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, acting in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, has been graciously

pleased to accept the voluntary offer of the greater number of proprietors of slaves in the maritime provinces, and whose signatures appear to different copies of an address to His Royal Highness, of the tenor annexed to this regulation, and marked A (which said copies, bearing their signatures, are of record in the office of the Chief Secretary to the Government of this colony), that all children born of their slaves on and after the 12th day of August 1816, should be free persons;

2. And whereas it is necessary to provide effectually for securing, to the persons

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reason to suppose, have been deprived of their natural rest by the extreme heat.

Within the last fortnight sickness has prevailed to a greater degree than formerly, and several cases have been observed, we believe, exactly resembling the epidemic that prevailed in June and July last year throughout Calcutta and its environs. Prickly heat, too, is much complained of, as excessively troublesome.

We regret extremely to state, that among the sufferers by sickness are the Governor General, and his Exc. the Commander-in-chief; but we have reason to believe that they are both considerably better, and may, ere long, be expected to be restored to their usual good health.

We hear that the Governor General is about to take a short cruise on the river for the benefit of change of air: his lordship's family and staff will bear him company. The trip, we trust, will be attended with those beneficial results to his lordship's health which are expected from it.—[*Ind. Gaz.*, June 20.

MR. MOORCROFT.

Extract from the Delhi Ukhbar, of the 27th June 1825.

“At the present time, a person of the name of Mahomed Ali has come to Delhi for the transaction of some business on the part of his Majesty Shah Shooja-ool-moolk. From him it has been learnt, that Mr. Wm. Moorcroft, Saheb, had arrived at Bokhara, and having visited Meer Hyder, the king of that country, presents had been mutually interchanged. That gentleman remained forty days at Bokhara, but could not obtain such horses as he wished; however, he purchased ten or twelve very fine horses, and then took leave:—and that a person had lately arrived from Cabool who stated, that it was reported from Cabool that the aforesaid Saheb had arrived at Khoollum, and most likely by the present time he must have arrived in Cabool.

DEATH OF SIR DAVID OCHTERLONY.

It is with regret we have to record the death of Sir David Ochterlony, which melancholy event occurred at Meerut, on the 14th July. The *Bombay Gazette*, speaking of him, justly says, “As a public character, we are not aware of his parallel in the annals of British India. During a most active service of forty-seven years, in the double capacity of statesman and soldier, his unremitting exertions and unerring judgment contributed largely to the stability of Government and the prosperity of the country.”

{A memoir of this gallant officer will appear in our next number.]

SHIPPING.

Arrivals in the River.

June 30. *Gibbore*, Lawes, from London.—July 6. *Crossmoad*, Boys, from London.—7. *Crown*, Pinder, from Liverpool.—10. *Marsalis of Lonsdown*, Heathorn, from San Blas and Batavia.—14. *Lord Suffolk*, Dimal, from London.—*Madras*, Fayer, from London.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

May 25. At Sultanpore (Benares), the lady of Lieut. E. M. Blair, 8th L.C., of a son.
June 15. At Chowringhee, the lady of John McKenzie, Esq., of a daughter.
19. At Muttra, the lady of Lieut. H. Graatin, 10th N. Cav., of a son.
20. At Moderdarry factory, Jessore, the lady of Chas. Omon, Esq., indigo planter, of a son.
27. In the Durrumtollah, Mrs. M. Meyers, of a son.
— At Ballygunge, the lady of Lieut. G. S. Lawrenson, artillery, of a daughter.
29. At the new mint, the lady of Capt. McLeod, of engineers, of a son.
July 1. The wife of Lieut. J. W. J. Ouseley, Arabic professor in the college of Fort William, of a daughter.
— Mrs. E. Bull, widow of the late Mr. J. Bull, clock and watch maker, of a daughter.
2. At Entally, Mrs. Grigg, of a son.
— Mrs. J. Cuninghame, of a son.
4. The lady of Lieut. C. Fowle, 65th N.I., of a son.
6. At Garden Reach, the lady of J. R. Best, Esq., civil service, of a daughter.
12. The lady of Capt. Goate, H.M.'s 87th regt., of a son.
13. Mrs. M. A. Paul, of a son.
16. Mrs. Crichton, of a daughter.
17. The lady of F. P. Strong, Esq., of a daughter.
Lastly. At Furrnah, the lady of Lieut. and Adj. Graham, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

June 4. At Saharunpore, Lieut. John Fisher, 23d N.I., and Adj. of the Serampore Bat., to Miss L. Vincent, third daughter of the late Rev. J. Vincent, chaplain on the Bengal establishment.
25. Mr. J. Biddall to Miss M. Han, only daughter of the late T. Han, Esq., of Cosim Bazar.
July 2. At St. John's Cathedral, C. R. Barwell, Esq., of the civil service, to Ellen, second daughter of the late R. Fulcher, Esq.
4. At Midnapore, J. I. Harvey, Esq., of the civil service, to Elizabeth Eleanor, eldest daughter of W. Wigger, Esq.
9. At St. John's Cathedral, Mr. J. Jones to Miss T. De Souza.
16. Mr. Joakim de Sante, 2d interp. of the court of requests, to Ann, second daughter of the late T. Andrews, Esq., Chitpore Road.
— At the Cathedral, Capt. J. S. Stock, of the 6th Extra regt. N.I., to Miss Susan Chilcot.

DEATHS.

April 1. At Pan Lang, Capt. P. Forbes, H.M.'s 47th regt.
15. At Rangoon, Lieut. Williamson, H.M.'s Royal regt.
May 15. At Rangoon, Lieut. E. Codd, H.M.'s 47th regt.
10. At the residency, Lucknow, Alfred Williams, son of the late G. Ravenscroft, Esq., aged five years.
24. Maha Rajah Ramchunder Roy Bahadour.
June 4. At Monghyr, aged 71, Mrs. Christiana Tytler, widow of W. H. Tytler, M.D., apothecary to H.M.'s forces.
6. In Fort William, in consequence of an accident in a buggy with a restive horse, Lieut. Col. H. R. Browne, commanding H.M.'s 57th regt.
8. At Chunar, J. D. Williams, sergeant pensioner, in his 103d year.
7. At Seebpore, aged 34, Frances Webster, the lady of Capt. James Webster, and youngest daughter of the late General W. Palmer.

B. Lieut.

MR. MOORCROFT.

It is well known that this enterprising individual has been for some years employed, with daring yet prudent spirit, in persevering efforts to visit every interesting part of Central Asia, and to make researches into the geography, science, literature, manners, and commerce of that secluded portion of the world. We have from time to time collected scattered accounts of his progress and discoveries, and have long indulged the expectation of seeing the result of his labours published in England. Our hopes on this head are, we fear, frustrated by the death of this distinguished traveller. Reports of the event have reached Calcutta by several channels, and it seems, indeed, put beyond a doubt by the following copy of a letter which appears in a Bengal paper :—

Extract of a Persian Letter from Aga Hussein to Moolah Shakoore, dated Umrutur, 22d of the Month of Rubhee, A.H. 1241 (corresponding with the 4th November 1825).

I have had an interview with Meera Mul and Assa Nuna, bankers, at Shekarpoor, who mentioned that they had received a letter from Cabul, from the contents of which it appears that Mr. Moorcroft, who had been to Bokhara, had proceeded to a town near the city called Ankho, to purchase horses, and had died there a few days after his arrival. The chief of Ankho seized nine horses, and all the property belonging to the deceased. The other gentleman who was in company with Mr. Moorcroft [Mr. Trebeck] had gone to Balk, and remained there in a sickly state, having sent information of the conduct of the chief of Ankho to the King of Bokhara.

It is superfluous for us to express our deep and pungent regret at the loss of a person, who seems to have been in every respect so well qualified for the career upon which he had entered.

Just previous to the reports to which we have adverted reaching Calcutta, a letter had been received there from Mr. Moorcroft, dated at Bokhara, June 6th, 1825, giving a long detail of his adventures in Toorkistan. The substance of this communication was published in the Government Gazette, and we think it cannot fail (especially since we have reason to believe the writer of the letter is no more) to inspire our readers with interest. At the time of writing, Mr. Moorcroft was awaiting the return of the King from a campaign against his rebellious subjects, when Mr. M. proposed to cross the Amoo.

“ Mr. Moorcroft and his party, having quitted Peshawur, arrived at the city of Bokhara on the 27th of February 1825. He had been previously warned against the attempt to proceed thither, by his Dooranee friends, on account of the distracted state of the intervening country, and the rapacity and cruelty of the hostile tribes inhabiting the line of his intended route. But nothing could deter him from the prosecution of his favourite enterprize, and the ardour with which his friends endeavoured to make him abandon his purpose, seemed only to increase his eagerness to surmount every anticipated difficulty. Strengthened by the concurrence of his friend and fellow-traveller, Mr. Trebeck, and by the general devotedness of the party, he resolved to pursue his object to the utmost of his power.

“ When Sultan Mohammed Khan was informed of this determination, he lent Mr. Moorcroft a small escort (fifteen horsemen) under the command of a confidential person, provided another considerably larger from Dost Mahommud Khan, and sent along with him an able man to make suitable arrangements should any difficulty arise on the frontier. Mr. Moorcroft was also supplied with a letter of introduction to the King of Bokhara, and another to Mahommud Morad Begh, the chief of Koondooz, into whose country he would

have to enter after passing through Bameean and the adjoining country of the Hazarehs. To Morad Begh Mr. Moorcroft wrote himself, stating his objects, and the motives for the journey. Through the latter province the party passed without the slightest molestation. On the frontier of Ak Roobat, or the White Seraee, they were met by 200 horsemen, commanded by Mahommud Alee Begh, the Tajik chief of Sykan, formerly a servant of Meer Kuleeah Alee Khan, but now compelled, through the fallen fortunes of his master's house, to become a tributary to Morad Begh, the chief of the Kuttaghun Ozbuks, whose principal residence is at Koondooz, in ancient times a part of Budukshan, joining the eastern frontier of Khorasan. Morad Begh, after the death of Meer Kuleeah, had subjugated the whole of the countries on the line of the great caravan-road from Ak Roobat, and extending through Sykan up to the eastern foot of the pass of Muzar.

"In the towns from the Hazareh frontier up to Tash Koorghan, the population consists almost wholly of Tajiks, or, as they occasionally call themselves, Chagataes; but that of Tash Koorghan is composed of a mixture of Tajiks, Ozbuks, and Caubuliese. The party were received and treated by the Tajiks with much civility.

"To Mr. Moorcroft's letter Morad Begh returned a civil answer, with the assurance that he should be treated as other merchants. At Tash Koorghan, however, there arose strong suspicion of a very different line of conduct. After some delay, Mr. Moorcroft and Meer Izzut Oolah Khan were summoned to attend the chief at Koondooz, a distance of about eighty miles, across a tract of country almost wholly desert, and without water, except rain collected at three different stages in a circular reservoir covered by a dome of brick-work. These wells, still invaluable to the traveller, though going rapidly to ruin, were constructed by Abdullah Khan, the munificent Khan of Kashkar, who was a contemporary and relation of the Emperor Akber. After two interviews with Mahommud Morad Begh, who was not devoid of civility, Mr. Moorcroft was dismissed, in company with a Hindoo, who was deputed to settle the amount of the duty to be levied on his property.

"After the duties (at a heavy rate) had been adjusted, the money paid, and the party on the point of departing, an embargo was laid upon all persons, on the plea of political precaution, to prevent the communication of pending preparations for a foray, directed by Morad Begh against the Hazarehs.

"At this period Meer Izzut Oolah Khan was attacked with a bilious remittent fever, produced on the march to Koondooz by marsh effluvia, and the disease, Mr. Moorcroft says, 'is probably not exceeded by the yellow fever of America, or the fever of Walcheren, though happily the cause, or combination of causes, is limited to a small locality.' As soon as he was sufficiently convalescent the Meer was permitted to return to Hindoostan.*

"Instead of obtaining leave to proceed on his journey, as expected, on the completion of the expedition, Mr. Moorcroft was summoned to Koondooz, and on his arrival there, learnt that his party had also been sent for, together with the whole of the property under his charge. It was then openly asserted by the chief, that Mr. Moorcroft had visited the country merely as a spy, and that he and his party should be detained till a reference could be made to Caubul and to Bokhara, to ascertain whether his views were commercial or otherwise. The answer from Caubul was favourable, and disappointed the chief, who only appeared to want a pretext for confiscating the property. At length, at the cost of a very large fine, the party were permitted to depart. But this was only a prelude to further treachery and extortion; for whilst

loading

* See p. 471.—Ed.

loading the camels to leave Tash Koorghan for Muzar, his progress was again arrested by an order to convey him with all possible speed to Koondooz.

“The cause of this fresh interruption was the voluntary evidence of a certain Moolah, who had been in the service of the Hon. Mountstuart Elphinstone at Peshawur, and who subsequently accompanied that gentleman to Calcutta. In this deposition Mr. Moorcroft was charged with having political designs, which induced Morad Begh to demand two lacs of rupees. The purpose of the Begh was now obvious, and it became a vital question how to counteract his intentions. In this difficulty, Meer Wuzeer Ahmud suggested to Mr. Moorcroft, that if he could undertake at one stretch, in the disguise of an Ozbuk, a journey of about 140 miles, he might reach the residence of Kasim Jan Khaja, in Talikan, and by personal application possibly succeed in interesting that individual in his favour.

“Kasim Jan Khaja is a syyud, descended through a family in Samurkund, from Jenghis Khan, united by ties of a double marriage with Mahommud Morad Begh, and exercising over him the influence which belongs to the head of the priesthood among the Kuttaghuna.

“Mr. Moorcroft’s tent was pitched upon the bare plain, and a considerable body of Ozbuk horse had been stationed round it. Towards evening they retreated to the distance of thirty or forty yards in front and rear of the tent, but near enough to see every thing that occurred. Other horsemen patrolled upon the roads, the gates of the town were shut at an earlier hour than usual, and every avenue to escape was guarded, except the road to Caubul. At the close of day, Mr. Moorcroft shewed himself outside of his tent in European attire, which, to that period, he had constantly worn, and, on re-entering, dressed himself quickly in the habit of an Ozbuk, concealing the lower part of his face in the last folds of his turban. Thus disguised, he quitted the tent alone, without detection. Dipping into a ravine, he followed its course along its bed, and by a few windings, reached a burying-ground, where two guides, with horses, provided by Meer Wuzeer Ahmud, were waiting for him.

“They took the road to Caubul, but soon, by long detours, got into the right direction, and after having travelled for two nights, and until four o’clock in the afternoon of the second day, without giving rest to their horses (which had only taken one feed of barley, carried on the saddles), they reached in safety the house, or rather camp, of Kasim Jan Khaja, situated on the right bank of Furkhar, and in the valley of Talikan: distance probably 150 miles. Talikan, as in the time of Marco Polo, is still distinguished for its mines of salt, and its large produce of wheat.

“A letter from Meer Wuzeer Ahmud introduced Mr. Moorcroft’s business to the patriarch of the Kuttaghun Ozbuka, and contributed to his kind reception. Finding the door of a large mud-walled court open, he entered, and sent one of the guides to the Peerzada, to whom he was speedily ushered through a crowd of attendants, surrounding a circular house, or tent, made of reeds and mats, with a high dome-roof of the same materials, resembling a gigantic bee-hive. Within this structure he found the Peerzada sitting on a wolf-skin, placed upon a thin cushion of brocade of crimson satin and gold. As instructed by Meer Wuzeer Ahmud, he placed the presented right hand of the Peerzada between his own, and slightly bowed over it; on which he received a welcome, and was desired to sit down. A present, according to the custom of the country, being placed before the Peerzada, Mr. Moorcroft took hold of the skirt of his robe, and stated at length the purpose of his visit. His object, he said, was to introduce the merchandize of the country to which

he belonged into Toorkistan, and to purchase and take back horses into Hindoostan. He gave a brief account of his journey; of his being delayed in Tibet through want of money, occasioned by an unexpected expenditure; of the Chinese authorities of Yarkund having consented to his visiting that city, and afterwards retracting their promise, through the intrigues of the Cashmeer merchants, jealous of competition; of his party reaching Cashmeer, and being detained there in some measure from a desire of procuring shawls as a safe remittance to Bokhara, but principally in consequence of the contest in Afghanistan between Runjeet Sing and the Dooranees; and of his having traversed Afghanistan, and ultimately having arrived in Toorkistan.

“He further observed, that Morad Begh had conveyed to him the fullest assurances of safety, instead of which he had been detained three months, had suffered unreasonable exactions, and was threatened with the loss of property and life unless he would immediately pay an enormous sum as the price of his liberation. The Peerzada pledged his word to prevent, as far as might lie in his power, any further injury to Mr. Moorcroft, or his affairs. Our traveller was then hospitably entertained, and treated with attention and respect. In one of their conversations, the Peerzada informed him that a native of Enderab, named Moollah Mahommud Ameen, had brought against him very grave accusations before the chief, and was surprised to learn that the Moollah was unknown to him. Next day the Moollah made his appearance at Talikan, accompanied by a Hajee, and demanded to be admitted to a durbar of the Peerzada, which happened to be that day very largely attended. His request being granted, he made a long speech, highly injurious to the interests of Mr. Moorcroft, alleging that the Europeans would speedily overturn the religion of Mahomet, and that their conquests were approaching the holy city of Mecca itself. Allusions were made to certain expeditions against Algiers and Mocha, and so strong an impression was produced against our traveller, that, on being informed, though imperfectly, of the proceedings at the durbar, he instantly claimed, as a matter of justice, to be allowed to enter upon his defence at once. On being introduced to the durbar, the Moollah was pointed out to him. Mr. Moorcroft then put to him the following questions:—

“Q. What is my name? A. Metcalfe. Q. What is my occupation? A. That of a general. Q. You say that I am a general, what number do I command? A. You are the head of the whole army. Q. Do you mean that I am the officer known in Hindoostan by the title of Sipur Sala? A. Yes. Q. How long have I been absent from Hindoostan? A. Seven or eight years.

“Mr. Moorcroft observed to the Peerzada, that his accuser was wholly unacquainted even with his name, and that the idea of a commander-in-chief descending to the humble occupation of an itinerant merchant, and absenting himself from his army for seven or eight years, was too ridiculous to require any comment! The Moollah was not to be put down. He poured forth other charges which, for a time, made a deep impression upon the Peerzada, and seemed to ensure a victory. Mr. Moorcroft, however, repelled them successfully, and the Moollah was so mortified and enraged, that he threatened to assail him with accusations at every stage on his journey to Bokhara, for the sole purpose of frustrating his views. ‘If you will not listen to my first advice,’ said he to the Peerzada, ‘at least make him go back, for if you do not, Toorkistan will inevitably fall into the hands of the English.’

(The remainder next month.)

VARIETIES;

PHILOSOPHICAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND LITERARY.

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF CALCUTTA.

A meeting of the members of the Asiatic Society was held at Chouringhee on Wednesday the 2d Nov.; the Hon. J. H. Harington, Esq., President, in the chair.

At this meeting the Hon. Sir Charles Grey, Mr. J. Paxton, Captain T. Macan, and Mr. Conolly, were unanimously elected members of the Society.

Present, for the Museum. The impression of the foot of Gautama, by Dr. R. Tytler.

A live Snake, the Boa Constrictor, from Saugor, and a hammock, or litter, used in Nepaul, by R. Hunter, Esq.

Six images from Hammirpore, by M. Amsle, Esq.

A series of specimens illustrative of the strata in the coal field of New South Wales, by D. Ross, Esq.; with a descriptive sketch of the mineral basin as existing at the north-eastern end of Pontypool, Monmouthshire, referring to the substances enumerated.

For the Library. Copies of all the oriental works published under the patronage of the College of Fort William, since October 1814, by the Council of the College.

A Sanscrit manuscript, the moral sentences of Chanakya, with a Nevari translation, by H. B. Hodgson, Esq.

A coloured map of Benares, by James Prinsep, Esq.

Several Burmese manuscripts, by F. P. Strong, Esq. in the name of Captain Wilson.

The Secretary read a paper by Lieutenant-Colonel V. Blacker, on the geographical boundaries of India. This paper abounds with curious matter, and interesting illustrations, but we understand, that its communication to the Society was premature on the part of the Secretary, the intelligent author, not having yet, in his own estimation, fully developed the subject. We must therefore refrain from citing its substance beyond adverting to a point which we think the author has incontestably made out, that the river Indus cannot be considered either geographically or politically as the western barrier of Hindoostan.

The Secretary also read a letter from Mr. Moorcroft, dated Cashmeer, the 8th of February, 1823, but owing to the difficulties of transmission from that remote quarter, it was not received before the 2d of November 1825. The letter contains a sketch of the language of Tibet, illus-

trated by drawings of the various alphabets employed in that country. Mr. Moorcroft has sent at the same time some stereotype line engravings of mythological and real personages, and a few pen-drawings executed in a similar style. These productions are to us quite surprising, as exhibiting a degree of taste and skill in the art of design which could not have been expected from Tibet. The Grand Lama, seated on a chair of state, is gracefully formed, and the drapery well arranged. A figure at his feet is very happily managed in a kneeling posture, and the two deities in the clouds, with halos round them, equally well conceived. The drawing of a beautiful Lama is also admirably executed, and the multitude of surrounding figures, depicted with the same taste and spirit. But the death of the mortal part of the Prophet Zacheamoonie is, perhaps, the finest in point of composition. The figures surrounding the reclining Saint, are numerous, and the expression and attitudes of grief, well varied. These outlines remind us of Flaxman's Homer, by their freedom and simplicity, but, of course, in an inferior degree. Mr. Moorcroft, however, says, that they are merely the common productions of the country, and that those of a higher description are not procurable, being deposited in the temples, and in the houses of men of opulence.

Mr. Moorcroft has given an account of every variety of letter used in Tibet, for familiar and religious purposes, and the enumeration is certainly curious.

No. 1. Is termed the *Lantsa*, the letter of the Lhas, or Angels. It is used for inscriptions in the Temples, or Monasteries, and the sacred sentence of "*Ota ma nee put me kang*," is usually written with it. This character is frequently met with in a line perpendicular to its present direction, accompanied by several ornamental strokes, or bars, to the right.

No. 2. The *Wurtoo*, the letter of the Genii (*Looei*) or the guardian spirits of springs, rivers, mountains, &c. It is found at Lhasa in some religious books, but few persons understand it well, and it is seldom made use of.

No. 3. The *Gyager Kamate*. The first of these words is the name given by the Tibetans to Hindoostan, and the second is that of the place to which the letter is peculiar.

If it really exists, at present, it will probably not have escaped European research.

No.

No. 4. Is the *Surolo Poshing* character. This also belongs to Hindoostan, and it need only be observed that the first word signifies "East," and that the second is the name of the district, or town in which it was employed.

No. 5. The *Tchaklo*.

No. 6. The *Shongkur doakhe*. This and the preceding belong to Tibet, but they are as little studied and as little used as the *Wertoo*.

No. 7. Is the *Oomet Brootsa*. The first of these words is applied to every description of the vulgar, or common letter, of which this is a variety, sometimes, though not most frequently, used for works on subjects unconnected with religion, as medicine.

No. 8. The *Moostaghe Oochun*.

No. 9. The *Shinpoos Oochun*. These are merely the established Ecclesiastical letters, with the omission of a few of the vowel signs, and the addition of a line betwixt some of the syllables, intended, as it is said, to prevent the writing being readily decyphered.

No. 10. The *Sansstreet*.

No. 11. The *Oomet Peik*, more generally used than the *Brootsa*.

No. 12. The *Oochun*, or the character in which the *Kangyoom*, the *Koghiur* of *Georgi*, and every book treating of religion is either written or printed.

No. 13. The *Oomet Chookyik*, the vulgar letter in general use.

No. 14. The *Thor*. This name, with the addition of *Po*, is used to designate a race of Tartars supposed to inhabit a country bordering upon the north of Tibet, near the sources of the great *Yangtse Kiang*, and included between the frontier of *Khoten*, and the tract of country, through which passes the great commercial road from *Lhasa* to *Siling*, or *Siningfoo*. These people are distinct from the *Kalmuks*, who are named *Sokpo*. They are, perhaps, a tribe of the *Eluths*, but oriental research may be sufficiently advanced to recognise them. The character resembles that of China, in being written in a line commencing at the top of the page and proceeding downwards. The Seal of the Grand Lama affords a specimen of it.

Mr. Moorcroft observes that the incorrectness of the present maps of Asia may give rise to a suspicion that the country of *Thor* touches upon the boundary of *Ladak*. But the unexplored territory of *Khoten* extends far to the East, along the face of the *Mooz Tagh*, connected by irregular groups with *Kantese*, or *Kuehs*, and the line of the ancient thoroughfare, between *Kashkur* and *India*, was through its capital and *Roodokh*, formerly the summer residence of the chief of *Ladak*.

"Tibet," says Mr. Moorcroft, "ap-

pears to have offered a secure asylum to refugees of different religious persuasions at different periods, and it is presumed that the *Masichean* and *Nestorian* Christians have profited by the tranquillity of the country, and the liberal, unpersecuting, spirit of its inhabitants. And from what I have myself seen of the indifference with which all classes of *Lamaists* behold an individual, born in their faith, embracing the doctrines of *Mahomet*, a suspicion is forced upon the mind, that if the missionaries who were domiciliated at *Lassa*, had confined their operation merely to making proselytes, and had not insulted the people by vilifying and degrading the national religion, they would not have been expelled from the country. But the same tolerating spirit does not exist among the Chinese who have now usurped the government of *Lassa*."

Mr. Moorcroft has been led to believe, from what he has seen, that the libraries of *Lassa* abound with matter, which, considering the insulated situation of that country, would surprise the learned in Europe, were they accessible to European research. The *Kangoor*, or *Kaggyoor*, a book found in all the principal monasteries, consists of one hundred and eight-foho volumes, each two feet six in length, and six inches and three-quarters in breadth, the first volume containing 1,088 pages.

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF PARIS.

Meeting of February 6.—The following persons were admitted members:—Messrs. *Biart*; *A. H. Bruié*, geographer; *Gros*, professor at the Royal College of *St. Louis*; *Pacho*, a traveller late from *Cyrenais*; *P. Wynch*, in the service of the *English East-India Company*.

M. de Hammer communicated to the Council, certain fragments relative to *Masoudi*, and the origin of the *Thousand and One Nights*.

M. Klaproth communicated the contents of a work which he proposes to publish on the ancient Turkish dialect, called *Coman*.

M. Jouannin, of *Constantinople*, transmitted to the Council, a memoir of *M. Ruffin*, for insertion in the *Journal Asiatique*; also the design of an ancient monument found in a valley near *Nicomedia*.

M. César Moreau transmitted from *London* some tables relating to the commerce of the *English East-India Company*; also a donation of a Chinese celestial planisphere, of which *M. Abel Rémusat* will give an account at the ensuing meeting.

Some passages were communicated of a letter from *Count Rzewowski*, of *Warsaw*, relative to the labours of *M. Majewski* on the *Sanscrit* language, and announcing

MR. MOORCROFT.

[Concluded from p. 612.]

"After the durbar, the Peerzada spoke to Mr. Moorcroft with great candour and kindness. He said that he was placed in a situation of much difficulty. If, in virtue of the office which he held, he should command Mahommud Morad Begh to desist from persecution, he must obey; but such an exertion of authority would break up the friendship between them, and render him personally obnoxious to all the heads of the Kuttaghuns. It might suffice, he thought, that on paying the further sum of 2,000 rupees, he would engage for the safety of all his party and property. To this proposition Mr. Moorcroft assented. The result, however, when made known to Morad Begh, produced so much dissatisfaction, that he repaired to Talikan, and on the night of his arrival the Kazee waited on the Peerzada to announce that there had been a large meeting of the heads of the Kuttaghuns, who, deciding that our traveller was a spy, had persuaded the chief to insist upon the Peerzada abandoning his cause. Morad Begh repeated the decision of the heads of the tribes, and his conviction that Mr. Moorcroft was nothing but a spy. Kasim Jan Khaja was extremely embarrassed. He had gone farther than was right in countenancing the payment of another sum of 2,000 rupees, and he conjured the chief to be satisfied with this concession. Morad Begh at last yielded a reluctant consent, but only on the condition that Mr. Moorcroft should remain in his territories until his return from an expedition he was about to undertake, with the option of joining the party at Koondooz, or of remaining at Talikan. Mr. Moorcroft preferred the sanctuary of the Peerzada, and passed a month of agreeable intercourse under his roof. Kasim Jan Khaja would not accept of any presents of value, and would only receive a bedstead, recommended to prevent the repetition of attacks of rheumatism, to which he was subject, from sleeping on the ground; a case of razors, &c., some ottur of roses, and a few scissars and knives to bestow upon his dependents. When Mr. Moorcroft departed, the Peerzada prayed for him in public, embraced him in the Ozbuk fashion, and sent him a roll of black China satin, another of crimson, gold brocade, and some pieces of green silk, for dresses, which he hoped our traveller would wear for his sake.

"Kasim Jan Khaja thought it unnecessary for Mr. Moorcroft to see Morad Begh on his return; but on his reaching Koondooz, the latter expressed a wish to see him. After enquiring respecting his health, he declared that in the late transactions he only wished to make trial of his firmness, having no intention whatever of hurting him. When Mirza Abool Toorab, on Mr. Moorcroft's taking leave, read the *Fateea*, or prayer, for the safety and prosperity of his party, Morad Begh joined in the ceremony, and stroked his beard with great solemnity and apparent fervor.

"Morad Begh, in his conquests, appears to have had no notion of the wealth that is derived from the soil, and the employment of his new subjects in agriculture and commerce; for in the course of last year, it is said, the treasury of Kuttaghun received four lacs and a half of rupees from the sale of slaves, on a contract with his minister, at the rate of fifteen tilas, or about six rupees, per head.* The fertile and salubrious valleys of Budukshan have been robbed

* Here is evidently some mistake: in p. 714, the tilla is said to be equal to six rupees; here the rupee is supposed to be worth two tilas and a half. The price paid for the slaves must be more than six rupees per head, which would make the number of slaves purchased 75,000!—Ed.

robbed of their inhabitants, for the purpose of transplanting them into the marshy lands of Koondooz, and upon the barren tracts of Talikan. The effluvia from the putrefaction of vegetable matter in summer, with the simoom from the desert, generates a fever of a very destructive nature. The African slave in the West-Indies is fed, clothed by his master, and has medical aid when afflicted with disease. The Budukshanee slave in Koondooz experiences nothing of this care; and the reduction of the families to one-fourth in six years exhibits a waste of human life not often known in other parts of the world. 'Vicissitudes in the condition of life in this country,' says Mr. Moorcroft, 'are great and sudden. Those inhabitants of Khorum who were at ease when we passed through that town, since transplanted by force into Talikan, asked for a piece of bread from individuals of our party, to whom they had tendered refreshments at their homes three months before.'

"When Mr. Moorcroft returned to Tash Koorghan from his second journey to Koondooz, he was hailed with exclamations of joy on account of his safety. He did not stop a single day at that place, and set off, with his party, and traversed the dangerous pass of Muzar, without any interruption. Shooja-odeen, the chief of Muzar, despatched his secretary to meet the travellers, and to conduct them to a convenient house, sending them at the same time sheep, rice, fuel, and whatever else he thought might be acceptable. Next morning Mr. Moorcroft, accompanied by Mr. Trebeck, waited upon the chief with a present, which was well received, and he observed, that they had experienced a treatment that would bring a bad name upon every chief of Toorkistan. On account of very bad weather the party remained four days with this hospitable man, who wrote a letter to the King of Bokhara in their favour, and sent a person to accompany them to Bulkh. At Bulkh they were received with civility by Eshan Khojee, who commented severely on the perfidious behaviour of Mahommud Morad Begh.

"After crossing the Jehoon, Amoo, or Oxus, the party were met by a person from Tora Bahadur Khan, the second son of the King of Bokhara, who conducted them to Kurshee, of which town he is the governor.

"At Bokhara, the Serace Oorgunjee was appropriated for the reception of the party, but the baggage was carried direct to the custom-house, where it was placed under lock and seal for two days. In the first interview with the Kosh Beghee, or lord of the household, it was explicitly stated, that Mr. Moorcroft came as a private English merchant, was not charged with any political mission or message to the King of Bokhara, and had no intention of entering into his Majesty's service in any capacity whatsoever. He only wished to obtain permission to sell such merchandize as he had brought, to invest the produce in the purchase of horses, and to establish a foundation upon which English merchants might trade with Bokhara in future.

"The Kosh Beghee explained, that the Shirra, or written law, enjoined Musulman princes to levy upon foreign merchants, not professing the faith of their Prophet, one-tenth of their property, as duty. But the payment of this rate was suspended until the return of the monarch from an expedition against the Kuthay Kepchaks, who had rebelled against him. On the Kosh Beghee seeing two small pieces of cannon among the baggage, he wished to forward one of them to the King, with which his Majesty was so much pleased that he intimated a desire to possess both, and they were accordingly presented, along with the chests of ammunition prepared for them.

"The Kosh Beghee remarked that the number of soldiers which accompanied Mr. Moorcroft, had given rise to exaggerated reports of the military strength

strength of his party, and to other conclusions at variance with commercial views. This observation was met by referring to the dangers of the journey, and reminding him that the caravans, which now arrived at Bokhara, might truly be said to fight their way to that city. Mr. M. added that, first proceeding upon the road of Tibet, which was tolerably safe, he had only a small guard; but that, thrown by adverse circumstances on the countries of the Punjab and Afghanistan, he was compelled to increase the number of armed men; and that unquestionably the safety of the party mainly consisted in the generally received ideas of its strength. These arguments were admitted to be satisfactory.

“On the second day after the return of the King, Mr. Moorcroft and Mr. Trebeck were summoned to the fort, or palace, for the purpose of being introduced to his Majesty. At the door of the great court, the Shegawul and Yesawul Bashee, who ushered them into the presence, directed them to follow with their arms folded across the breast, and on coming to a particular place to make the usual salute. The Ameer, or Commander of the Faithful, was seated in a small room, about fifteen feet higher than the area of the court, dressed in a plain drab-coloured coat of broad-cloth, with a large loosely-folded turban of white muslin, having a narrow gold border, and before him was a large book, the leaves of which he frequently turned over with apparent earnestness.

“Meer Ameer Hyder is about forty-eight years of age, of a complexion somewhat olive, and rather dark than fair. His features partake of the Ozbuk character, in some degree, and the deep lines on his face, with the rapid change of expression from lively to serious, seemed to indicate a mind of great activity, in which benevolence and good temper are said to be strangely mixed up with distrust and hauteur. He inquired after the health of the visitors, their names, ages, country, and occupation; and from the long intervals between the questions, it was suspected that a secretary, concealed behind, was occupied in committing the dialogue to writing. He asked the name of the King of England, and was curious to know why he was called George the Fourth. Report, he said, had swelled their property to a vast amount, but an examination had reduced it to a very moderate value. To this observation it was remarked, that the journey was merely an experimental one, and that when better informed as to the nature of the articles most in demand, commercial intercourse with this country, on a large scale, would be established. His Majesty adverted to the unjustifiable and treacherous treatment which Mr. Moorcroft had received from Mahommud Morad Begh, and trusted that nothing of that kind would happen at Bokhara. Our traveller was then invested with full liberty to sell his property, and to purchase in return whatever articles he might think necessary. The King now explained the written law, prescribing the amount of the tax to be levied on foreign merchants, not Mussulmans, frequenting Bokhara, and according to which he had directed one-tenth of the property to be exacted. The inquiries he had made, he said, had not entirely satisfied his mind as to the amount of duties charged on the frontier of India, from Mussulman merchants; but whenever he learnt that the British Government levied only one-fortieth part upon such property, he would reduce his customs upon merchandize, brought by its Christian subjects, to the same amount.

“Mr. Moorcroft and Mr. Trebeck had been directed to stop at the distance of about twenty paces from the window, near which his Majesty was seated,

but after a time the King beckoned them to approach nearer, and indeed as close as they could conveniently get to the window, which they afterwards understood was to be held as a special mark of condescension, favour, confidence, and honour.

“The King directed Mr. Moorcroft to be seated in a situation from which he could see the mode of despatching business, which was summary and rapid. To the petitions of those whose claims were admitted the King himself affixed a finger seal, which a secretary occasionally smeared with ink from a stick of that substance prepared in China. His Majesty frequently assigned reasons why he rejected the suit of the petitioner, and in every instance the rejected petition was torn up. At the conclusion of every decision the master of ceremonies repeated a short prayer in Toorkee, for the preservation of his Majesty’s impartial administration of justice; at the end of which the whole assembly joined in approving by stroking their beards. There was much of respectful solemnity in the whole proceeding, and the King delivered his commands with great promptitude and rapidity.

“At Bokhara, foreign merchants have never been allowed to ride on horses in the streets, but this rule was dispensed with in regard to Mr. Moorcroft and Mr. Trebeck, and they were the first foreigners who had ever enjoyed that privilege in the city of Bokhara.

“Until lately, Bokhara was the great emporium of central Asia; but within the last few years the commerce of the whole of Oorgunj has been lost to it, in consequence of the prince of that country having thrown off his allegiance, and the chief of Shuhr Subs and the Kuthay Kepchacks have followed the example. The minister acknowledged that formerly he had received, as duty, upwards of twelve lacs of rupees from one caravan, and now the whole of the customs are farmed at little more than one-third of that sum. ‘Nor is the amount first mentioned so very large,’ says Mr. Moorcroft, ‘considering the enormous number of camels in the caravans from Meshed, Russia, and China, which, at Bokhara, were accustomed to sell and exchange the merchandise of almost every part of the world; and that specie and bullion are subject to duty. In a caravan now on the road from Russia the letters of merchants announce twenty-five byjooons, or lacs, of sequins, or gold ducats of Holland.’

“Two large caravans from Russia have been plundered in succession by the Oorgunjees, and five years have now elapsed since a caravan arrived from that country.

“The mountains in the neighbourhood of Bokhara are said to contain inexhaustible mines of fossil-salt, and Budakshan is rich to profusion in all the mineral productions of the earth, and in other products of a most valuable nature. Almost all the varieties of bread-corn are raised with facility; the orchards are fruitful to a degree seldom known in Europe; indigo may be successfully cultivated in certain places; and there exists a substitute for the sugar of the cane, so rich, so fine, so wholesome, and so cheap, as to leave nothing to be wished for in its manufacture, except its reduction to a solid form for the convenience of transport. At the lowest calculation, the towns depending on Bokhara, not including those of its immediate vicinity, yield about 70,000 maunds annually, and there are not, apparently, any bounds to the power of raising it. The ordinary price is about two rupees a maund, and it forms the basis of a sweetmeat greatly in use among the lower classes. It may be a mortifying reflection to men of science, especially in France, that whilst a host of French chemists, at the command of Buonaparte, were long employed

employed in ransacking the vegetable kingdom for a sweet juice, which, converted into sugar, might serve as a substitute for the sugar of the cane, when that substance bore a very high price in France, and could find nothing more productive than the parsnip and beet—the Ozbuks and Afghans, who are completely ignorant of the elements of chemistry, and even of the term, except as applied to the art of transmuting metals, should have stumbled upon a discovery which converted a substance, which France possesses in profusion, into syrup so excellent, as to leave little to regret in being deprived of the sugar cane; and which, by a cheap, easy, and obvious management, may be made at least to rival that article in regard to quality. Mr. Moorcroft does not divulge the name of the substitute.

“The cotton-wool of Toorkistan is beautifully soft and fine, and the nankin-coloured is probably little inferior to that of Khoten, or China Proper. The silk of Toorkistan is plentiful and good. Vast quantities of shawl-wool might be raised, but in several parts of the country it is suffered to rise and fall disregarded by the owner, whilst the fleece of the Arab variety of the broad-tailed species of sheep, capable of being appropriated to the manufacture of woollen cloths, is made only into ropes and felts; and the Kuzak and Oozbuk breeds of this animal yield in their tails a marrow, like fat, little inferior to the butter of the cow.

“The vine breaks into numerous varieties. The red grape of Shitbergan; under a process practised by a Georgian, yields a wine in quality between the best port and the red hermitage. Another, under the management of Jews, gives a liquor that may rival the finest red Burgundy; and the Sheer Takh, and other luscious grapes, would furnish dessert wines as rich as those of Alicant, Malaga, Lachryma, or Tokay.

“By some Russians who had escaped from slavery, Mr. Moorcroft was told that there is the extraordinary number of from four to five thousand Russian Christians in slavery at Oorgunj and its dependencies. It appeared that some of them had been taken by the Yemoots, on the shores of the Caspian, and that several had been in slavery nearly forty years.

“Whilst looking for horses in the city one day, Mr. Moorcroft saw three persons, whose features and complexions resembled those of Europeans. They were stated to be Russians who had escaped from slavery with the Oorgunjees, and had, under great difficulties, made their way to Bokhara, where they now waited the determination of the king respecting their fate. A few days afterwards a person, who said he was a slave-broker, went to our traveller with two of these Russians, whom he declared he had bought, and was about to send into the country; but, on their stating that Mr. Moorcroft might possibly ransom them, he had been *touchèd with compassion* at their distress, and had accompanied them to witness the result of the appeal. Inquiry was made to know what had become of the third Russian; who, after some frivolous excuse on the part of the broker, was then brought, and Mr. Moorcroft procured a bargain of sale, with an order signed by the minister that no one should hereafter set up any claim upon the Russians now transferred to him. The ordinary price of an able-bodied slave is twenty pieces of gold: Mr. Moorcroft gave thirty-five for each man, and five pieces to the broker. The Russians were then clothed, taken into the serae where he lodged, and treated as servants. They had been traders: two of them had been taken in a skiff on the Caspian by some armed crews of Yemoots, who had put off from Munkishlak on the former dropping anchor near that town. They had been sold to

to the Oorgunjees; had been in captivity nine years, during which time they had been employed in tending sheep and camels, and brood mares, and in other works of agriculture. In the depth of winter they had dared to attempt an escape, without provisions or knowledge of the road; they were reduced to great distress by hunger, one man eating part of the felt of his sheep-skin cloak, and the others supporting themselves by the dry bones of animals, which they pounded with stones. They were now delighted with the prospect of again reaching their native country, by the way of Hindoostan, and were abundantly grateful for the treatment they had experienced. Shortly afterwards, however, at day-break, a message was brought from the minister, conjuring Mr. Moorcroft, if he had any regard for him, to send back the Russians. Mr. Moorcroft refused; but went to the fort to inquire the cause of this request. The Kosh Beghee was closeted with the King; but in an hour a secretary came out with a repetition of the first message; and a solemn pledge being given that they should not be re-sold, Mr. Moorcroft gave up his claim. Whatever may have been the cause of this departure from former usage, the purchase money was returned, and a royal order subsequently issued, prohibiting, in future, Russians, that is Russian Christians, to be sold in Bokhara.

“Meer Ameer Hyder is said to take credit for being more learned in the Mahomedan law than any other individual in his dominions, and occasionally gives lectures in theology. And, as chief magistrate, were he to relax for a few days only from that system of restraint and punishment, which is supported, as it is stated, by the vigilance of about 600 spies, and if the Meer Shub and Mohteseb were to slumber at their posts, there would be wild work in Bokhara. But the activity of the former is unceasing, and the drum of the Meer Shub, beginning immediately after night-fall, interdicts communication by the streets just as effectually as the tolling of the Curfew-bell served to extinguish all fires in a remote period of English history.

“The annual revenue of the King of Bokhara does not exceed three lacs of tilas, or about eighteen lacs of rupees. One-third of the population of the city consists of slaves.

“On the subject of horses, Mr. Moorcroft says, that the country, up to Meshed and Herat inclusive, and the whole space between the Oxus and the Ochus, extending even to the banks of the Caspian, contain the very best breeds. But vast numbers of Toorkmun families, report says from 30,000 to 40,000, who were breeders of horses, and used to bring their young stock to Bokhara, have, since the defection of Oorgunj, and the death of Meer Kuleech Alee Khan, fallen off from their allegiance, and for the last five years have not been able to send a single horse to the usual marts, but have employed their cattle in warfare. Shuhr Subz, which had an excellent breed of horses, Kuthay Kipchak, and Meeankhal, near Samurkund, are similarly circumstanced; and the market of Bokhara has been in consequence nearly as much ruined in this as in all other branches of its commerce.”

We have yet received no confirmation of the report of Mr. Moorcroft's death, as stated in our last number; but it is to be feared that it will prove too well-founded.

charges for pilotage in favour of the vessel under your command.

I am, &c.

C. LUSHINGTON, Chief Sec. to Gov. Council Chamber,
15 Dec. 1825.

MR. MOORCROFT.

The death of this gentleman, we regret to find, from the following paragraph in the *Calcutta Gazette*, is confirmed:—

“Capt. Wade, the political assistant at Loodianah, has received a letter from Mr. G. Trebeck, dated Balkh, 6th Sept., which states that Mr. Moorcroft, on leaving Bokhara, had separated from the rest of his party, for the purpose of proceeding to the district of Meinuna in search of horses, and that on his arrival at Andkho he was attacked by a fever, which terminated his existence, at the latter place, on or about the 25th August. Mr. Trebeck himself had been labouring under severe sickness, but recent accounts from Caubul mention that he had entirely recovered his health, and intended to join a cafila on his return to Hindostan.”

BHURTPORE.

The following official details are from the *Calcutta Government Gazette*.

To the Right Hon. Lord Amherst, Governor-General, &c. &c. &c.

My Lord: I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that the engineers having reported to me that they were prepared for commencing operations against the town of Bhurtpore. I this morning advanced a force into the jungle, and took possession of the small places called Kuddum Kundee and Buldeo Singh's Garden, which afford cover for the troops, and on being joined by a covered way, will form the first parallel, at a distance from the fort of about 800 yds. I expect that this parallel, with a mortar battery of twenty pieces at the garden, and a gun-battery of six 18-pounders at Kuddum Kundee, will be prepared by to-morrow morning, when we shall return their fire.

I have inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a sketch of the country round Bhurtpore, shewing the encampment of the troops, and I hope to-morrow to be enabled to forward a plan of the intended works; in the mean time, I beg to observe, that our operations will, in the first instance, be directed against the north-east angle of the town.

The return of casualties in the army this day has not yet been received; but no loss was experienced in taking possession of the ground this morning, and though the enemy have kept up a constant fire during the day, it has been by no means injurious.

A return of casualties, since the 14th inst. is herewith transmitted: our loss, at present, has been confined to a few casual shot from the fort at our reconnoitring parties, and some trifling skirmishes with the enemy's cavalry outside of the fort, who have endeavoured to harass our foraging parties.

Being desirous of saving the women and children in the fort from the horrors of a siege, I addressed a letter, on the 21st inst., to Doorjun Sall, calling upon him to send them out of the fort, promising them a safe conduct through our camp, and allowing him twenty-four hours for the purpose. Having received an evasive reply, I have again sent to him, allowing him a further extension of the time for twelve hours: to this letter I have not yet received an answer, though he must have received it yesterday afternoon.

I have, &c. COMBERMERE.

Head-Quarters, Camp, before Bhurtpore,
20d Dec. 1825.

Return of Casualties in the 2d Division of the Army, under the command of Maj. Gen. Nicolson, on the 15th Dec. 1825.

Corps.	Distribution.	Septas	Remarks.
11th Regt. N.I.	Killed	0	Two severely, one slightly, the leg of one man amputated. Supposed to be killed while skirmishing.
	Wounded ..	3	
	Missing	2	
31st Ditto	Killed	0	Severely.
	Wounded ..	1	
	Missing	0	
Total ..		6	

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing, of the out-lying picket of H. M.'s 11th Light Dragoons, and a foraging party of the 4th Light Cavalry, on the 20th and 21st Dec. 1825.

Corps.	Distribution.	Lieutenants.	Serjeants.	Corporals and Naicks.	Troopers and Privates.	Horses.
H. M.'s 11th Light Dra- goons	Killed	0	0	0	0	0
	Wounded ..	1	0	0	2	0
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0
4th Regt. Lt. Cavalry	Killed	0	0	1	0	0
	Wounded ..	0	0	1	0	0
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0
Total ..		1	0	1	4	8

W. L. WATSON, Adj. Gen.

Head-Quarters, Camp before Bhurtpore,
Dec. 26, 1825.

To the Rt. Hon. Lord Amherst, Gov. Gen., &c.
My Lord: I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that since my despatch of the 23d inst. the works against the town of Bhurtpore have proceeded as regularly as I could have expected, and with very little opposition from the enemy, except on the night of the 24th, when the working parties were a good deal annoyed by the enemy's match-lock men.

On the morning of the 24th, a battery of eight 18-pounders, in front of Kuddum Kundee, and one 6-mortar, which in the course of the day was increased to fifteen, in front of Buldeo Singh's garden, were opened; and this morning the advanced battery, between these positions, as shown in the sketch sent to your Lordship, was completed with five 18-pounders and five 24-pounders, at a distance from the north-east angle of about 250 yards: by means of which the defences on the east face of the work, as far as the large projecting bastion, have been, in a great measure, destroyed.

The approach from Buldeo Singh's garden towards the north face of the town will be commenced this night.

I beg to enclose a return of casualties to the 24th inst., inclusive. I fear that I shall be for some time deprived of the very efficient services of Capt. Smith, of the engineers, who has unfortunately received a severe contusion on the left shoulder, from a spent shot from a jingal.

I likewise transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my second letter to Doorjun Sall, with his reply, by which your Lordship will perceive that my endeavours to save the unfortunate women and children have failed. Several ryots, with their families, have, however, escaped from the town.

I have the honour to be, &c.

COMBERMERE.

General Return of Casualties in the Army before Bhurtpore, from the 23d to the 25th of Dec. 1825, inclusive.

Camp, Dec. 26, 1825.

Horse artillery—wounded, 2 men.

4th regt. light cavalry—killed, 1 sepoy.

• Lieut. Wymer, slightly wounded.

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VOL. XXII.

JULY TO DECEMBER, 1826.

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1826.

house of accommodation for pilgrims and other destitute persons, of all religions, visiting the city. It is said, in the proposals issued by certain native gentlemen, that there are numerous pilgrims from the Deccan, who proceed to Benares, and other countries of Hindoostan, and pass through Calcutta; and having no place whatever to resort to, many have died from absolute want of lodging.

FIRES IN CALCUTTA.

We are much indebted to our numerous correspondents for many communications received relating to the late fires, particularly to the extensive one in the Juan Bazar, on Sunday last, where upwards of a hundred native huts were consumed. The natives, however, are by no means impoverished, though they may be inconvenienced by the loss of their habitations, for so accustomed are they to accidents of a similar nature, that, we are informed, they generally provide themselves with large chests on wheels, which they can remove with little difficulty to a place of safety, so that they lose little besides their wretched and valueless huts, which can be replaced without much labour, at a very trifling expense. The consequence is, that after they have removed their property, they look on with the greatest apathy at the progress of the flame, which originated either by their own carelessness, in indulging their favourite amusement of burning squibs, fire-works, &c., or, as is well-known to be the case, intentionally, on the part of some of the traders in wood, who wish for a market for their stock on hand, which at this time of the year is generally abundant. Several houses of Europeans were in imminent danger of catching the blaze on Sunday, and we hope that the liability of Europeans to suffer through the negligence or wickedness of the natives, and the frequent warnings afforded by the numbers of fires that have lately occurred, will suggest to the magistracy of this city the expediency of taking precautionary measures, to prevent the spreading of a conflagration when it does break out, and to detect and punish, if possible, the persons who, either through gross negligence or design, may have been the cause of it.—[*Beng. Hurk.*, March 29.

MILITARY ANNUITY FUND.

The following suggestion is offered by a correspondent in the *Government Gazette* of April 3:—"The liberality of our hon. masters was never more strikingly exemplified towards any branch of their service, than by their support of the new Civil Annuity Fund, the furlough and retiring pensions of which are upon a scale worthy of the object and of the ser-

vice. The pecuniary grant afforded by the Court of Directors is, for a furlough of three years, £250 per annum; and after twenty-two years, a retiring annuity of £500; to which the civil department subscribes an equal sum, making a liberal allowance altogether of £500 per annum, for three years' furlough, after ten years; and an annuity of £1,000 after twenty-two years! How many of us military men would, under the support of such a fund, be enabled to visit our native country, and re-establish a sinking constitution, where the want of adequate means is now a barrier! Without calculating on further support from the Court of Directors, beyond the existing allowance granted for furlough and retirement to their military officers, which, on a comparative scale with their allowance granted to the civil branch, is not one-half the amount given to the latter, I would suggest to my brother officers the formation of a fund from their monthly incomes, on a principle similar to that adopted by the civil service, sufficient to afford £200 per annum for three years' furlough, and £400 retiring annuity, in addition to that at present allowed by the Court for furlough and retirement; or, if preferred, let the allowance in either, or both cases, furlough and retirement, be less.

The object of this letter is to encourage, as I hope it will do, the exertions of those capable and willing to draw up a plan, and to promote an undertaking, in the success of which the interests of the Hon. Court (*i. e.* the Indian Government) would benefit no less than their military servants."

LEVEE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

His Exc. the Commander-in-chief held a levee yesterday morning, at his house in Chouringhee, which was numerously attended. By the judicious arrangements adopted on the occasion, every individual was brought to the particular notice of his Lordship, and was honoured with his conversation. The levee commenced at ten, and was not entirely over till a late hour.—[*Gov. Gaz.*, April 20.

THE LATE MR. MOORCROFT AND HIS COMPANIONS.

We have been favoured with the following extract from the letter of a respectable native residing at Cabul, noticing some of the circumstances attending the unhappy fate of our late travellers in Bokhara. We had not before heard of one of the party, a Mr. Guthrie.

On the arrival of the Sahiban at Kohulm, Mir Morad Beg, the chief of Koonduz, sent for them to his presence, and put them under restraint, together with Mir Isart Ullah. They remained in that state about a month, and after much difficulty and vexation,

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1827.

splendour; they are now constantly presenting themselves to notice in every quarter among the relatives and friends of these individuals; the ornamental appearance, and compact and portable shape, of these bundles of varnished and embellished palm-leaves, render them objects of attractive elegance, and thus (perhaps rather unfortunately) make them pleasing memorials of remembrance.

A few months will disperse far and wide, and for ever, these valuable depositaries of the science and history of a great people, and a most important opportunity of collecting together a perfect library of Birman writings is passing away, never to be recalled; the value and the usefulness of these manuscripts are so apparent, that surely a pithy address which designated either the Museum, our grand national depositary, or the library of the Royal Asiatic Society, as a select dépôt, to receive, under certain conditions, these *opima spolia* of war, would permit the approbation and patronage of numerous individuals, to whom these manuscripts must be a sealed tongue. Not any time should be lost in making the effort, for the purpose of securing and procuring for literature so large a portion of the writings of one of the most powerful of the Indo-Chinese kingdoms, of which at the present instant there are in England such numerous specimens as would compose a collection of inestimable rarity and importance. What public monument would more illustriously confirm the warlike successes of England over the region of the Mogas of Magadha, than such a depositary of the writings of their progenitors? These best gifts of war would commence a more grateful contest, and by them might we best learn how to conciliate our new subjects, and convert them into grateful and willing allies.

Were the individuals' names carefully inscribed on the manuscripts presented, such a gift would not less illustrate the liberality than the valour of the donor; and it cannot be questioned but that a well-supported appeal to the public of this great metropolis would produce at once the funds requisite to effect a measure, combining the advantages of knowledge and intellectual improvement, with national character and glory.

MR. MOORCROFT.

To the Editor of the Asiatic Journal.

SIR: I have observed a paragraph in the English papers, copied from a Russian journal, giving an account of the murder of an English traveller of celebrity, named *Moncrief*, in Tartary: does this refer to Mr. *Moorcroft*, or to some other person? A. S.

. We have no doubt that the individual referred to is Mr. Moorcroft, whose name and whose fate are equally misrepresented in the paragraph, which has run the round of the English papers, and is now upon its travels on the Continent.—*Ed.*

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1828.

THE LATE MR. MOORCROFT.

SOME letters from Mr. Guthrie, one of the unfortunate companions of Mr. Moorcroft, in his travels through the countries of Upper and Central Asia, have lately appeared in a Calcutta newspaper. As they contribute some additional information respecting the progress of that enterprising traveller, we subjoin the substance of them.

Mr. Moorcroft commenced his last journey seven or eight years ago; he was accompanied by a party rather considerable in number, chiefly consisting of native servants, in charge of merchandize and baggage, but including the writer of these letters, who appears to have been an Indo-Briton, or East-Indian, and a Mr. Trebeck: both these individuals, by a singular and rather suspicious coincidence, died nearly at the same time with Mr. Moorcroft. The party reached Leh, the capital of Ladakh, in September 1820. It seems, from the earliest letter in the collection, which is dated 17th February 1820, from "Goodwarah, 200 miles from Joshee Muth (Nath), on the mountains of Gurhwal," that they had been induced to remain a considerable time at Johsi Nath. Upon their advance to this place, the Bhoteas and other hill-tribes on the borders of Tartary were alarmed at reports that the traveller was a *general*, and that he was leading a considerable army against them, and they prepared to oppose him. This false idea of his military character and views seems to have prevailed in other parts visited by Mr. Moorcroft, and to have occasioned him much embarrassment, by exciting suspicion, and affording countenance to the misrepresentations of his enemies. They left Johsi Nath on the 1st January 1820, for the Kooloo road, towards which they proceeded till they were stopped at Mundeec, three days' journey from Belaspore, by a Sikh sirdar, who refused to allow them to advance without the permission of Runjeet Singh. In a letter dated "Mundeec, 5th May 1820," Mr. Guthrie states:

Mr. Moorcroft is gone to Lahore to visit Runjeet Singh, as some of his men who were at Mundeec, collecting revenues, stopped us as soon as we had arrived at that place, till Runjeet's permission was procured. By a letter received from him the other day, it appears he had been in close confinement for fourteen days, and that he is now released and allowed to go on, so that we shall soon see what comes up. However unfavourable this may appear to you, it is not so with us, as we may consider ourselves well off if we every where meet with nothing more. Some other reports are prevalent, foretelling not very pleasant things, but which may prove false, and therefore do not require mention here.

The next letter is dated "December 1820," and written from Leh, though the place is not named. It discloses the difficulties with which the travellers had to contend in their endeavours to prosecute their journey onward:

When I last wrote, there was some talk of our moving from this city to Yarkund, which belongs to the Chinese; but since that it has appeared that at the present moment it is impracticable for various reasons. Our character as *Feringhees* may be mentioned; that is, we are said to be only merchants come with an apparent intent to trade, but that our design is to visit these countries in the first instance under some sort of concealment, and when we become informed as to route, and other circumstances which are important, we shall invade the country, when we can advantageously attack. We have in possession a number of instruments, such as guns and pistols, some intended as presents, and others kept merely for amusement, &c. As no merchants have been in the habit of carrying such goods, we cannot make any person believe that they are for sale; or for presents to chiefs of countries, although a fowling piece has been given to the

Rajah of Ladakh. It is universally said that we are spies and not merchants; if we were, we had no business to carry weapons. However, these goods have never been allowed to enter Yarkund since the Chinese have had possession of it.

If none of the obstacles mentioned could have stopped us, the want of money certainly would. We have 200 maunds of baggage, merchandize, and personal property, and when we march must carry nearly 200 maunds of grain for road consumption, the carriage of which will cost at the rate of sixty rupees for every three maunds, nearly 8,000 rupees, beside the purchase of grain and other expenses; so that we must be possessed of 10,000 rupees before we can move from this with any kind of safety.

The Peerzada mentioned in my last letter has been good enough to send a favourable account of our conduct, and has tried to prove that we really are merchants. Mr. M. has likewise written to the minister at that city, giving him intimation that we are merchants proceeding to Bokhara for the purpose of procuring horses, and that we will take Yarkund in our route to that country in the beginning of next year.

Hafiz Moomhammad Fazil, an intelligent Moosulman of our party, is going to Furruckabad to bring up some merchandize which was left at that place, and it now appears that they would meet with ready sale at the towns of Leh and Yarkund; we will also by this means insure a permanent passage from Hindoosthan to Leh, if by any untoward event we may not be able to penetrate further into Tartary.

The next letter is dated from "Leh," the capital of Ladakh, "1st August 1821;" it communicates some very curious particulars respecting the intrigues of Russia in this quarter, which though suggested heretofore, were never stated so circumstantially, and with so much plausibility:

The difficulties of our journey to Yarkund were increased by the death of the Emperor of China, and more so by a Russian ambassador, named Agha Mehdee, who has been endeavouring these five or six years to form connections with these countries. In a former embassy to Ladakh he procured shawl-wool goats for the Russians, that they might raise the material, and manufacture shawls for themselves in their own country, as they are obliged to pay enormous prices for those made in Kashmeer. Having accomplished his first mission successfully, and possessed naturally of great discernment and sagacity, he gained much reputation at the Court of St. Petersburg, where, from a Jew he became a Christian. He was again sent into Asia with introductory letters to the chiefs of these countries, and with rich and valuable presents, amounting, I dare say, to five lacs of rupees. A year after his departure from Russia he arrived at Yarkund, and there became a Moosulman. By this conversion, and by the weight of his purse, he secured himself every attention, and having baffled our designs of visiting the latter city, marched for Ladakh, but on the heights of the Karakorum mountains he died of an indigestion. His assistant or servant, Moomhammad Fuhoor, has arrived here: but he possesses not a quarter of the sagacity of Agha Mehdee, and is so much addicted to sensuality, that he has squandered away nearly the whole of the public money, and I suppose never means to return to Russia again. Agha Mehdee was equipped in the disguise of a merchant: but from facts that have been ascertained, and from the imperial letters to the Rajah of Ladakh and Maha Rajah Runjeet Singh, it appears that commerce was not his sole object, and that the Emperor Alexander has been contemplating the *invasion of China*; and as Ladakh and Kashmeer are localities favourable for the Russian army, the friendship of Maha Rajah Runjeet Singh and the chief of Ladakh was indispensable. By the death of the envoy the Emperor has lost a considerable sum of money, and all his views are blasted.

Our remaining in this country so long has not proved altogether useless. Some months ago Mr. Moorcroft had an engagement signed by the authorities for permitting British merchants to trade with Ladakh, or pass through it in progress to other countries; and now the allegiance of it is offered voluntarily to the Hon. Company. So far, then, our success has exceeded our expectation.

Meer Iszut Oollah, a most intelligent Mahomedan of our party, is gone to Yarkund

to negotiate with the Chinese governors for us, and we shall learn from him soon the result. By some route or other, we will march from this in winter, and by the end of next year I hope to return from Bokhara.

The succeeding letter is written from Cashmere, and dated 16th July 1823. It relates a few particulars of the country, of their journey, and of their future plans :

Our progress through Yarkund was rendered impracticable in consequence of Kashmeere merchants representing to the Chinese authorities that we had taken possession of Ladakh, and that our objects in wishing to visit Yarkund were political. This caused the Chinese authorities to retract from their engagement, which only remained to be signed by the governor.

Foiled in this attempt, we left Ladakh in October, and reached Kashmeer in November last, with the hope of proceeding through Kabool. We have sojourned nine months in Kashmeer, and expect to leave it in four or five days for Peshawer.

This country is naturally the most fertile and beautiful in the world ; the climate is delightful, and its inhabitants are certainly the most sagacious people in Asia. Nature has blessed it with almost every production ; but the oppression exercised on its inhabitants by its rapacious rulers for the last eighty years, has rendered it miserable, and it now exhibits a scene of starvation and disease horrible to behold.

During our journey from Leh to Kashmeer, we came in contact with a band of robbers, who had plundered and laid waste the district of Dias the night previous to our arrival, and had the day not been snowy, it is very likely we would have been attacked also. These depredators, though about 700 in number, scantily armed with matchlocks and swords, did not dare to approach us with their swords (for their matches were of no use in the snow), and the firing of a few blank cartridges with our effective flint guns caused them to depart.

It remains to be seen what success may follow our exertions in the line through Kabool, since the death of Moolhammad Azeem Khan has rendered this route greatly more dangerous. Mr. Moorcroft will spare no expense nor exertions to effect a safe passage, neither will any peril cause him to return without effecting the objects he has in view.

The last letter is dated "Peshawer, 15th April 1824;" it alleges a very serious charge of duplicity and fraud against the Sikh ruler :

We were detained in Kashmeer nearly a year, in consequence of the manœuvres of Runjeet Singh, the chief of the Punjab, who threw every obstacle in our way to prevent our farther progress. We started from the city of Kashmeer in July last, and having entered the country of the Bumbas (who are dependent on the Singh), we were stopped on the pretence of not paying a most enormous duty, which Runjeet Singh in a passport exempted Mr. M. from paying, but privately hinted to the Bumbas that it should be exacted. Mr. Moorcroft said, that if the customary duties were required, he was willing to submit to pay it, but that the claims made were most extravagant and unprecedented. To this it was replied, that if we did not pay the amount mentioned, we would not be allowed to proceed. At first Mr. M. thought of attempting to march and brave any attack that might be made : but on second thoughts, seeing that our Kashmeere porters, in case of any battle, would fly, and leave us but a small party to protect a large quantity of merchandize in a mountainous country, for which no other conveyance was procurable, and as the local government of Kashmeer remonstrated that we should return and go by another road, it was thought most prudent to follow the latter plan. We accordingly returned to Kashmeer, and were obliged to remain a month longer before carriage for baggage was procured. In August we again moved towards Peshawer, and by a most circuitous route arrived at Jelum, where we were again stopped for camels of conveyance. About the end of September we left Jelum, and arrived at Attok, crossed the river of that name, and halted for some time till news from Peshawer arrived. We had not encamped many days when two

confidential servants of Yar Moohammad Khan, sirdar of Peshawer, were sent by their master to accompany us to the city, and to give us every assistance on the road. During our stay at Attok, particular inquiries were made respecting the nature of the country we had to traverse, and we found reason to suspect that some disturbance would take place in the territory of the Khuttuks, whose chief was a new ally of Runjeet Singh's, and who had just returned after an interview with him. According to our expectations, when we were within a mile of Akora, the capital of the Khuttuk country, intelligence was received that the Khuttuks were preparing to plunder us: we however still marched on, and instead of passing through the town, as was anticipated by our antagonists, we traversed its outskirts safely, and encamped on a commanding situation not far distant from Akora. The Khuttuks were waiting to receive us into the gates of the city, that they might lock us up as soon as we entered, and plunder us in safety to themselves. Frustrated in this, they saddled their horses, put on their armour, and were determined to stop us on the plea of our having shirked the duties. Coming out of the town, they found we had encamped, and instead of attacking us, the chief came to Mr. M.'s tent and offered his services, for he thought we knew nothing of his design. Our sentry only allowed a few courtiers to come to the tent with their chiefs, whilst the body of his troops was kept at a respectable distance from the bounds of our small camp. The cavalry were galloped about before us, flourishing their swords, and brandishing their lances, to shew their skill and to inspire us with fear; but we evinced no sign of suspicion, on the contrary, praised their horses and themselves. We were fatigued by a long march, hungry and tired, and were very happy when we found that the Khuttuks would give us time to refresh ourselves, for we were aware that they only waited to raise a larger body of troops. After pitching our tents and arranging our baggage in the usual way, we contented ourselves with a meal of rice and dholl, and betook ourselves to rest, as it had become dark, and we were to rise very early the following morning to proceed on our march, if the Khuttuks did not prevent us. At nightfall a body of cavalry and footmen spread themselves round our camp as sentinels, on pretence of guarding us from thieves, but in reality to watch us, and to give notice should we think of preparing to march in the night. Our camels were taken to a distance, as there were no bushes near our camp for them to feed upon, and were interrupted by the guards of the Khuttuks. This circumstance fully proved to our minds that we should be attacked either that night or the following morning. But the night passed in safety, and by some mistake our camels were released early in the morning.

At sunrise (our usual time of starting) we began to prepare for the day's march; and no sooner had the Khuttuks found that we were going off, than they assembled in a large body either to exact a heavy duty, or to plunder us if possible. They consisted of about 700 in number, armed with matchlocks, swords, and spears. Our whole force was thirty strong, and we formed two lines of fifteen each in the face of our enemy, with a small piece of brass cannon on the left flank of each line, whilst our camels in the rear were lading to proceed. The body of the Khuttuks stood in a heap in our front, and on our road about fifty yards from our line, and the dry bed of a river intervened between them and us. Our camels were laden, and we were about to move forward; when a portion of the Khuttuks descended into the ravine to get nearer, and to fire their guns at us over the bank, whilst they themselves were secure, as they thought, from our balls, and at length they all came down into the bed of the watercourse. One half, or fifteen of us, with a piece of cannon, drew up to the bank, and declared that we would fire upon them if they came nearer to us than they were. Some of the foremost suddenly retreated, and fell upon the large body in the rear, which put them into confusion, and if we had at that moment fired, every ball must have told. It was thought most prudent, however, not to fire, but to proceed on our march, leaving the Khuttuks to the left. Our camels set off with the soldiers in the rear, and though the Khuttuks followed us for some short distance, no one attempted to come near us. This circumstance, though badly related, will give you an idea of the character of Runjeet Singh, and of the courage of the Afghans; whilst the steadiness of thirty soldiers in facing 700 men, shews the advantages which are derived from discipline!

We were received into Peshawar with civility by its ruler, and can find no fault with the treatment we have experienced from the people in general, though the country is in a distracted state. Mr. Moorcroft and myself have been lately on a journey to the country of the Wuzenees, a portion of Afghanistan, to see the horses of that place; Mr. M. thinks that these animals will answer the purposes of the British Indian army. We were accompanied by a Moosulman priest much respected in that country. The people were very hospitable to us, and supplied us with food, and even with bedding for our servants.

We shall leave this very shortly for Kabool, and if no untoward occurrence should prevent us, we shall be in that city about the end of May, whence I shall again write. The climate of Peshawar was temperate in winter, but at present is excessively hot.

This portion of Asia would give employment to many hundreds of Indo-Britons; if a colony were to establish themselves in it, which would not only much improve the condition of its present inhabitants, but it would also be the means of diffusing the Christian religion in this part of the globe.

EAST-INDIA EXPENDITURE.*

Years.	Expenditure of the Presidencies of			Interest on Debt.	Political Charge paid in England.	Total Expenditure.
	Bengal.	Madras.	Bombay.			
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1793	3,425,299	2,140,307	739,001	636,226	165,347	7,304,828
1794	3,354,736	1,925,497	786,691	526,205	171,392	6,950,047
1795	3,464,144	1,871,525	747,889	484,301	163,399	6,986,278
1796	3,636,193	2,103,902	734,153	414,750	199,128	7,391,716
1797	3,774,820	2,411,959	894,913	426,847	375,097	8,137,226
1798	3,943,116	2,517,774	950,512	603,926	203,784	8,541,933
1799	3,912,999	3,281,605	1,223,208	721,550	300,736	9,716,334
1800	4,453,119	3,065,880	1,517,900	957,236	273,817	10,603,323
1801	4,702,400	4,405,559	1,297,453	1,062,684	307,635	12,097,227
1802	4,733,478	5,085,214	1,204,760	1,386,593	482,730	13,291,008
1803	4,914,105	4,908,840	1,220,165	1,361,453	393,207	13,081,971
1804	5,327,903	6,063,720	1,652,631	1,394,322	435,224	15,307,963
1805	6,508,200	5,991,748	2,048,487	1,566,750	485,605	18,192,010
1806	7,719,944	5,385,640	2,455,746	1,860,090	575,795	18,418,863
1807	7,723,216	5,269,700	2,166,605	2,224,956	492,083	18,365,330
1808	6,371,843	5,193,673	2,059,107	2,225,668	505,797	16,658,031
1809	6,476,986	4,935,743	1,738,495	2,241,665	550,766	16,267,702
1810	7,158,961	4,869,476	1,747,139	1,925,300	565,931	16,561,422
1811	7,241,839	5,110,977	1,557,165	1,715,232	580,767	16,521,359
1812	7,058,371	4,619,610	1,542,485	1,488,242	690,613	15,777,303
1813	7,257,731	4,859,136	1,542,562	1,491,870	1,490,700	16,935,470
1814	7,135,172	4,893,224	1,589,329	1,537,434	1,335,579	16,801,016
1815	7,373,005	5,134,246	1,675,200	1,526,467	1,393,393	17,393,324
1816	7,854,681	5,289,476	1,937,430	1,584,157	1,459,426	18,433,950
1817	8,025,980	5,201,399	1,902,460	1,720,232	1,464,029	18,605,513
1818	8,483,924	5,475,254	1,885,786	1,753,018	1,306,431	19,213,360
1819	9,087,377	5,979,045	2,492,193	1,684,271	1,375,832	20,914,556
1820	8,920,451	5,694,844	2,395,844	2,006,109	1,426,766	20,762,593
1821	8,750,757	5,572,489	3,176,143	1,908,853	1,329,168	21,036,256
1822	8,540,182	5,405,592	3,609,894	1,935,390	1,392,905	21,060,811
1823	8,746,043	5,072,992	4,264,448	1,694,731	1,720,724	21,804,465
1824	9,445,538	6,213,817	3,228,150	1,652,449	1,153,886	21,992,857
1825	11,394,496	5,714,849	3,279,390	1,460,433	1,580,259	23,753,743
1826	12,530,260	5,783,351	3,697,192	1,674,792	1,452,680	23,328,008

Note.—The years end in February. The total expenditure includes commercial charges, and also the expenditure of Bencoolen and Prince of Wales' Island.

* From Mr. Moreau's "Chronological Records of British Finance."