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ASIATIC SOCIETY.

First Report by Dr. JAMESON of his deputation by Government to examine the effects of the great Inundation of the Indus. See Journal As. Society, Vol. X p. 615—620.

From the Envoy to the Court of Lahore, to T. H. MADDOCK, ESQ. Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor General, dated Camp Kurnaul, 28th January, 1843.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit a copy of a Report received some time ago from Mr. W. Jameson, Assistant Surgeon, of his expedition to the Indus in 1841, to examine the effects of the flood caused by the disruption of the obstacle that had for several months obstructed the course of the Indus within the mountains.

2. Dr. Jameson failed in his intention of penetrating up the line of the Indus to the supposed locality of the cause of this extraordinary inundation, owing to an attack made upon him and his Sikh escort while he was making a geological survey of the Khuttuk hills, west of Peshawur, where coal beds were believed to exist. When, after many weeks, he was liberated by the assistance of the Sikh Government from the fort of Kohat, the Cabool insurrection and its consequences had rendered it impracticable for the Sikhs to secure for him a safe passage up the line of their western frontier, by which it had been proposed to convey him to, or towards, Gilghit and Khafferistan.

3. I had introduced Mr. Jameson to the Lahore court, where he was cordially received. I had provided him with presents suitable to the wild people he was going to visit. He had received the usual presents and

"*zeafuts*" at the durbar, and was keeping, as instructed by me, a debtor and creditor account of all such transactions. The whole, however, was plundered, leaving a balance on that account against Government of Rs. 2,887:7:5, which amount I have embodied in my Toshah Khanah account, which is periodically submitted for the sanction of Government.

4. I beg leave to annex an estimate of the value of Mr. Jameson's private property. He lost every thing he possessed, excepting the clothes upon him. Some compensation to a scientific and enterprising young man, who was thus employed by the orders of his Government, would, I think, be money well laid out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE CLERK, *Envoy*.

*Envoy's Office, Camp Kurnaul,
28th January, 1843.*

(Copy.)

TO GEORGE CLERK, ESQ. *Governor General's Agent, North Western Provinces.*

SIR,—In reporting my arrival at the Political Agency, North Western Frontier, I have the honor to lay before you a brief statement of the route I followed in crossing the Punjaub, and from the Indus to Peshawur; at the same time premising, that I shall as soon as possible give a detailed report of my proceedings, which I regret to say must be very imperfect, owing to the loss of all my notes, collections, &c.

2nd. I have already communicated to you what passed at the interviews I had the honor to receive from His Majesty Sheir Singh.

3rd. From Lahore attended by an Agent of the Durbar, Alif Shah, twenty Suwars, a Havildar, and eight Sepoys, I proceeded in a NNW. direction, crossed the Chunab at Ramnuggur, and from thence to Jelalpore on the Salt range. Here I remained for some time to examine the interesting geological phenomena presented, then marched along the foot of the mountains to Pind Dadur Khan, opposite to which, but about three coss distant, are the great Salt mines, named the Koura mines. From the mines all the salt is brought to Pind Dadur Khan, and then sold by Rajah Golaub Singh's officers. After visiting these mines, and examining the neighbouring country, I ascended the hills at Bara, and marched to Maree on the Indus, via Choia, Sidan Khan, Khotas,

Durabbi, &c., on a generally barren country, a characteristic mark of these thinly populated mountains. Here and there, only in the neighbourhood of villages, was vegetation met with.

4th. At Maree, I first witnessed some of the devastating effects of the river's inundation that had taken place about six months before, and as you had directed my attention particularly to the examination of this district, under which is comprehended that of Kalabágh, distant about half coss, and on the eastern side of the river, in order to ascertain whether coal was to be met with fit for steam vessel purposes, I remained here a few days, and then prosecuted my researches up the river as far as Sharkar, to determine if the same system of rocks (saliferous system) existed to the northward, and also to witness the extent of the ravages committed by the great *debacle*. After an absence of six days, I returned to Kalabágh, re-examined the various interesting fossiliferous deposits in that neighbourhood, abounding in the remains of fish and saurian animals (?) and coprolites. I mark saurian animals with an interrogation, as the fossils were not of so perfect a nature, as to allow me to say definitely, whether the remains belong to saurian reptiles or sauroid fishes. They are met with in a red sandstone, (the equivalent of the new red sandstone of Europe,) which is superimposed by the red marl, along with which the rock salt, gypsum and alum slate, occur. In some places a limestone is met intervening between the red sandstone and red marl, abounding in fossil organic remains; and at Jellalpore, where in some places the red sandstone is wanting, we have the marl resting immediately upon a limestone without fossils, and presenting all the mineralogical characters of the magnesian limestone of Europe.

I left Kalabágh on the 26th for Cohat, following the route of Elphinstone.

5th. From all the chiefs whose country I passed through, viz. Alla Yar Khán, of Kalabágh, Ghoolam Mustafa Khán, Ghongree of Shakur-durrah, Russool Khán Khuttuk of Elaichi, I received attention, and was by each of them furnished with a guard, having, as requested by the Maharaja, discharged at Maree the twenty Suwars.

6th. I arrived at Cohat on the evening of the 29th November, and was met by Futeh Khán, the Naib and brother-in-law of Sooltán Mohamad Khán, in whose name all orders are issued, and the revenue collected. Next morning he again waited on me, accompanied by several

chiefs, (Aga Medi Khán, Oomr Khán, &c.) the Lahore Killadar, and Alaf Shah. Aga Medi Khán apologized for Sirdar Kadar Khán not visiting me, he being unwell. After some general conversation, I was asked the object of my journey, how long I intended to remain, &c. In reply I stated, that I would proceed forthwith; Futeh Khán Aga Medi Khán then remarked, as the former had done the evening previous, that the direct route to Peshawur was not safe, several parties having been lately plundered by the Afreedies. To confirm what they said, they referred to Maharaja Sheir Singh's Killadar, who corroborated their statement, and remarked that now no Sikh party could proceed in safety by this route. Such being the circumstances, and there being no object to be gained in proceeding by this route, I proposed to march viâ Attock. To this they objected, and remarked that it was unnecessary; for, if I would inform General Avitabile, arrangements would be made in a few days to enable me to proceed by the direct route. Alif Shah then asked them (chiefs) why they did not summon the chiefs of the Afreedies? To this they replied, that since the departure of Sultan Mohamad Khán, who had been called to Lahore by orders of the British Government, they had lost all control over the hill tribes. I wrote to Captain Mackeson, and mentioned what I had been told by the authorities of the place, and at the same time intimated that I would either proceed by Attock, or by the direct route to Peshawur, as he should deem fit.

At the interview, the chiefs alluded to the unsettled state of their country; and said that during the night a party of Afreedies had visited my camp, and carried away a report that I had much treasure, (this report was prevalent in the bazar of Cohat, and appears to have reached Peshawur, Captain Mackeson having mentioned it in one of his letters,) and that unless I removed my camp within the walls of their fort, they would not be answerable for its safety. Alif Shah having urged me to adopt this measure, owing to the weakness of my guard, and the authorities refusing to strengthen it with some of their own people, I reluctantly did so, imagining that it would be the means of confirming the hill tribes in their supposition. The true cause of the chiefs being so anxious for me to quarter in their fort I afterwards ascertained, and shall forthwith notice.

In the evening I removed to the fort of Sirdar Kader Khan, the nephew and son-in-law of Sooltan Mohamad Khan. It is rather a forti-

fied village, having a high mud wall, and at the four angles bastions. Nearly all the villages that I saw beyond the Indus were fortified in a similar manner; from the town of Cohat it is distant about a quarter of a mile. The town of Cohat consists of several divisions or villages apart from each other, and in the centre there is a large mud fort garrisoned by three hundred of the Lahore troops. Formerly the guard was relieved every six months, but the present party had been there upwards of a year, and without any prospect of relief or pay.

Next day (1st December) I was visited by Sirdar Kader Khan, who apologised for not visiting me on my first arrival. He was particularly inquisitive regarding the objects of my journey, the cause of my coming to Cohat, &c.

7. When at Kalabágh, and prior to ascending the river, I wrote to Captain Mackeson, mentioning the extraordinary rumours in regard to our troops being in a precarious position not only at Cabul and Jellalabad, but also in many other parts of Affghanistan. Three days after reaching Cohat the answer to this letter reached me, which confirmed the melancholy intelligence received from the natives at Mukud on the Indus, and elsewhere. This was the first authentic information that I had received of the state of affairs to the North West since I left Lahore; none of the letters which you did me the honor to address to me having come to hand.

On the 4th, no answer to the letter addressed to Captain Mackeson having arrived, I told the chief that it would be absolutely necessary for me to march viâ Attock, as the season was rapidly advancing; that I had waited two days longer than the time specified as necessary for the receipt of an answer, and as I had stated to Captain Mackeson that I would proceed by either the Attock or the direct route, I should no doubt find that the chiefs through whose territories I would pass, had been informed by General Avitabile of my intentions. Why the answer had not reached, they could assign no reason, further than the cossid had been seized by the Afreedies, and detained; and they remarked, that if I would remain a day longer, they would send off forthwith another; they further stated, that the route viâ Attock was almost impracticable for camels. This I afterwards ascertained to be incorrect. Early next morning Sirdar Kadar Khan came to my tent, and stated that the carrier which he had dispatched would certainly arrive in the course of the day.

About six o'clock on the evening of the 6th, Duria Khan, one of the Afreedi chiefs in the pay of General Avitabile, arrived in company with Ibrahim Khan, retainer of Shahzada Houssum Khan, a brother of Dost Mahomed, and pensioner of the Sikh Government. They visited me with Alif Shah and delivered a note from Captain Mackeson, intimating that they had been sent by General Avitabile to conduct me by the direct route to Peshawur. With the former there were 50 followers armed with jezails, and at their urgent request I delayed my departure till the 8th. In regard to the directed route, they stated that it was perfectly safe.

8. On the evening of the 7th I received another letter from Captain Mackeson, advising me not to put too much faith in Duria Khan, and that unless the Cohat authorities, as also the Lahore agent, agreed on the practicability of the water, not to proceed by it. On the receipt of this note I sent for Alif Shah, and explained its contents, and also mentioned that Captain Mackeson had sent a Persian letter for Seyed Kasim Khan, requesting him to give me every assistance, which I had transmitted to him through Futteh Khan. He then left me, and returned again in about half an hour, and stated that there would be no annoyance whatever en route, as all the chiefs were to accompany me across the Pass; that the letter sent by Captain Mackeson was not for Seyed Kasim Khan, but for Aga Medi Khan, and that all would be ready to move at day-break next morning. Futteh Khan afterwards waited on me and reiterated the words of Alif Shah.

9. Early next morning (8th) I commenced my march, accompanied by the chiefs (Futteh Khan, Aga Medi Khan, Duria Khan and Ibrahim Khan) with their followers.

The Pass formed by the Teera or Khyber range of mountains, which separates the Peshawur from the Cohat vallies, is about two coss distant from the town, and rises to a height of upwards of a thousand feet; its entrance, between two lateral or subordinate ranges, is protected by a small mud fort garrisoned by Futteh Khan's sepoy. Here I was requested to remain; a sepoy, who had gone on to reconnoitre, having reported that a large body of men, amounting to several hundred, had assembled at the summit of the Pass, and that it was their intention to dispute our passage; the alarm was given, and the party of the chiefs, amounting to nearly two hundred horse and foot, was joined by

as many more. A council was held, and it was decided that the chiefs should first go on, and make an arrangement with the Afreedies. After a delay of about half an hour, a message was sent to me to advance, and also a request that I would give particular orders for no one to straggle in the rear; to prevent this I ordered the laden camels, mules, &c. to go in advance, as the ascent was both very steep and rugged, so much so as to induce Alif Shah and several of the Afghans to dismount and lead their horses. Here and there Afreedies, in parties of two and three, were seen moving about on the adjoining hills, watching our proceedings, but all remained quiet till the baggage had reached the summit of the Pass, on which a matchlock was fired as a signal, and from all sides armed men issued. The hills immediately above us, where not a man was seen the moment before, were now covered, and they opened on us a heavy fire, at which the Dooranis, both horse and foot, fled to shelter; not one of them returning a shot, though they were all well armed. I had to run the gauntlet of a heavy fire, but no sooner was I out of the range of their matchlocks, than all firing ceased. I remained for some time at the mouth of the defile, to see whether any of the Dooranis would join me, but none of them doing so I returned to the fort with my followers, of whom however nine were missing; viz. Alif Shah the Sikh Agent, a Havildar and two Sepoys, Lahore service, a servant of the first mentioned Ali Bukhsh Chupprosee of the Ambala agency, two of my own private servants, and a Sepoy; three of these, desperately wounded, (one of whom died a few days afterwards,) were brought to the fort by Futteh Khan's people; the bodies of the others, (one excepted, said to have been cut to pieces,) were recovered and interred next day. The Sikh agent was among the killed.

10th. About an hour after my arrival at the fort, Sirdar Kadar Khan came to me, condoled in the loss that I had sustained, and abused his people for taking me by that route. One by one the different chiefs joined us, each assigning a reason why I had been attacked, and among the number Aga Medi Khan, who stated that he was severely wounded, as did also others who were with him; his wound however was nothing but a contusion received by a fall from his horse, which was shot under him. It was also stated that many more had been wounded, and many horses carried off. This statement I afterwards

found out to be incorrect. In the evening the chiefs were joined by Seyed Kasim (Khán, the first time that I had seen him) who was received with marked respect by Sirdar Kader Khán and others. On asking Futteh Khan, after all the others had left, (who conducted me to a small mud hut for my residence) why his people did not assist me? he replied, that if they had done so, that they (the Dooranis) would have been massacred to a man; that the principal tribes by whom I was attacked were the Bazote, Automkhail and Parkhail, whose chiefs were either in the pay of Captain Mackeson or General Avitabile; viz. Alum Khan, Zemaun Khan and Ishonail Khan, in that of the former; and Rehmit Khan in that of the latter; that Seyed Kasim Khan had aided and abetted them, and that he was a thief and a robber, and at the head of a large banditti who inhabited villages close to Cohat. This is the reason I attribute why the chiefs (Dooranis) were so anxious I should quarter in their fort, fearing lest I should be attacked close to their town.

11th. Next morning I was informed by Duria Khan and Ibrahim Khan, that the cantonments at Caubool had been carried by assault and all the British troops massacred, and this was stated on the authority of a letter said to have been received by General Avitabile, and that the whole country was up in arms. They advised me to leave forthwith, and attempt to cross the Pass during the night. Shortly after they had left me I was visited by Futteh Khan, who asked what I intended to do. I replied that he knew best, and that therefore I would be guided by him and Sirdar Kader Khan, as I was completely in their power. I told him what had been mentioned by Duria Khan; to this he answered that he had double the strength of his garrison, and that as long as I remained in his fort, he would be answerable for my safety.

12th. That same day (9th,) I received a letter for Captain Mackeson, stating, "I hear that Duria has gone to bring you to Peshawur by the direct route; he can do it if he likes." The manner however in which both he and his people had conducted themselves the day previous, shewed that I had nothing to expect from him, the reason he assigned for not assisting me being, that he had not received orders to quarrel with these tribes.

13th. That the Dooranis were aware of the attack being intended, I have not a doubt; but probably were obliged by policy to lead me into the snare. They were at the summit of the Pass a quarter of an

hour before me, but instead of giving the alarm, they remained quiet till I was completely entangled; the first notice I had, as mentioned, of the hostile intention of the hill tribes, was a savage yell, and discharge of matchlocks. If the statement is true, the accuracy of which I have no reason to doubt, that the tribes mentioned were the principal leaders in the attack, then it was impossible for any body of men to enter the Pass without being noticed by Futteh Khan's garrison. To corroborate it, Futteh Khan stated, that all my property was sold in their villages. It is more than probable that the cause why the credit is given to the Bazote Autimkhail, &c. tribes is owing to their chiefs being patronized by Captain Mackeson; the Douranees on the other hand, being excluded from his durbar. But of this, viz. disunion among the tribes inhabiting the Cohat valley, the population of which is estimated at 5,000, there is no doubt, nor are the Douranees on very friendly terms with their neighbour Rossul Khan, whose resources ($4\frac{1}{2}$ lacs,) surpass those of Sooltan Mohamed Khan to the west of the Indus.

14. On the 10th, a cossid arrived from Lahore, with parwanehs from the Maharaja and Minister for Alif Shah, giving him orders to take on the suwars. The man contradicted the statement made to me the day before by the Dooranees, that the Lahore durbar had refused permission to the British troops to pass through the Punjaub, (having passed a large force at Ramnuggar,) which had the effect of altering much of their tone; some of whom were most disrespectful, particularly an individual named Hubbitoula Khan. A few days afterwards Duria Khan left me, having told him that I did not at present require his services; but if afterwards I found that they were necessary, I would send for him. After remaining for some time in Cohat, I offered Futteh Khan Rs. 1,000, for a guard to the Indus viâ Honshialgur, to which he agreed after some demur, and two hours before day-break on the morning of the 28th, I left in company with him and several other chiefs, with a strong body of horse and foot, and crossing the mountainous country belonging to the Afreedies got into the country of Russul Khan, one of whose people joined us. Several of the chiefs returned, as they stated their presence was now unnecessary. Nothing worth noticing happened. In the evening we halted at Pershai, a town belonging to Russul Khan, three coss from the river. His brother, Sirdar Khan, waited on me, and shewed me every attention. Early next morning I marched to the

river in company with Futteh Khan, Oomr Khan, &c. where after presenting them with an order on Peshawur I dismissed them, and then crossed and proceeded to Gumut, from thence marched to Peshawur via Hassun Abdál and Attok, where I arrived on the 6th, having here and there met with much difficulty in procuring bearers for the two wounded men, our story being in general discredited. I left Peshawur again on the 10th, having received four letters ordering my return, and arrived at Feerozepore on the 28th, accompanied by a small guard from General Avitabile.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

(Signed) W. JAMESON,

*Assistant Surgeon, on a Deputation to the
Camp Lahore, March 17, 1842. Sources of the Indus.*

*DR. JAMESON'S Report on the Geology, Zoology, &c. of the Punjaub and
part of Affghanistan.*

TO G. CLERK, ESQ. *Governor General's Agent for the Affairs of the
Punjaub.*

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit the first part of my Report, comprehending the Geology of the Salt Range of the Punjaub, and of a part of Affghanistan. I regret that, owing to the loss of all my Notes (a small Note Book excepted) and collections, it is so very imperfect, but still, I trust, it contains some observations worthy of attention.

I have not alluded to the great *debacle* of the Indus, but have deferred its consideration, as also the Zoology of the Punjaub, to the second part of my Report.

I have, &c.

Ambala, June 29, 1842.

(Signed) W. JAMESON, A. S.

On deputation to the Indus.

*On the Geology, Zoology, &c. of the Punjaub, and of a part of Affghanistan. By WILLIAM JAMESON, ESQ. M. A., S. C., M. S. C., &c.
on deputation to the Indus.*

The following observations refer to those parts of the Punjaub and Affghanistan which I have personally visited. Prior to crossing the



Jameson, William. 1843. "First Report by Dr. Jameson of his Deputation by Government to Examine the Effects of the Great Inundation of the Indus. Sec Journal as Society. Vol. X p. 615." *The journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* 12(135), 183–192.

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