

*Abstract of a Journal kept by Mr. Gardiner during his travels in Central Asia—with a Note and Introduction.—By M. P. EDGEWORTH, Esq., B. C. S.*

As every contribution to the geography of little known regions is interesting, I submit the following extracts and abstract of a journal kept by a Mr. Gardiner. These journals were lent by him to the late Sir Alex. Burnes in Cabul, and but partially recovered. They were written, he informs me, mostly on scraps of paper at the time, and during a subsequent residence in Cabul thrown into the shape they now have, occupying several volumes of country paper. Two volumes remained in Col. Burnes' hands, and were lost at the time of the Cabul disasters. One of these unfortunately, related to the journey through Cafferistan. The route taken by Mr. Gardiner is in most parts quite different from that followed by any European traveller; he merely crosses the routes of Lieut. Wood and Mr. Moorcroft; the late travellers Messrs. Winterbottom, Agnew, and Lieut. Young, in 1848, penetrated into Gilget, and the boundary Commissioners, Messrs. Cunningham and Strachey with Dr. Thomson, came on his route near the Kara Korum, leaving the central region traversed by Mr. Gardiner still unexplored.

I have not made any attempt to compare the routes and inductions of Mr. Gardiner with those travellers, as I have neither the materials nor leisure requisite for the purpose; I give a bare abstract of his route with brief descriptions of the country and remarkable objects. I also give one specimen at greater length of his visit to one very remarkable spot. I cannot but think that were Mr. Gardiner's rough materials placed in good hands, and the losses above noted replaced, a most interesting book of travels might be constructed.

*Februarg 9th, 1853.*

M. PAKENHAM EDGEWORTH.

#### *Introduction.*

Mr. Gardiner is son of a Dr. Gardiner in the Mexican service. He was educated for several years at the Jesuit College of Clongoose in Ireland. On his father's death in 1823, he left Mexico with the intention of joining his elder brother, who was in the Rus-



sian engineering service at Astracan, in a Portuguese brigantine for Lisbon.

There he met with a Mr. Aylmer connected with the Principal of Clongoose, who induced him to go with him to Egypt. Mr. Gardiner then became acquainted with Messrs. Datterwitz, two German mineralogists, and another M. Musaix, a Frenchman, and travelled with them overland to Astracan, joining the Diarbekr caravan returning from Mecca to Tribizond, thence by water to a roadstead between Vudaun and Kark. Thence by land to the north of the Caucasus—misguided, they were in great danger from the natives at Anacuck, but escaped and reached Georest and Astracan in safety. Found his brother living in the island of Kumchnoe opposite Guricoe.

Mr. Gardiner remained there till 1829, preparing himself for the Russian Engineers, when all his prospects were blasted by the death of his brother. Claims on the part of the Russian Government for settlement of accounts balanced, absorbed all his brother's estate. He determined to return to America; but Mr. Datterwitz with a M. Shrotzky returned from Orenburg and induced him to accompany them to Persia.

From Astracan, about the beginning of September, they proceeded to Karazan where they were joined by a traveller, M. Martigny, who had been examining the coral island in the volcanic range to the East of the Caspian. In November the party had to take refuge from storms in Kramwood bay, North of Balkan. After much delay and contrary winds they reached Astrabad—there M. Martigny and Datterwitz separated and M. Shrotzky remained with Mr. G.—and they proceeded Eastward with the intention of procuring service in the Punjab, in consequence of reports they had heard from a M. Musaix, (nephew of his former companion.)

This course brought them to Herat where the Journal commences.

#### *Journal.*

*Jan. 24th.*—Mr. Gardiner left Herat with a small caffila of returned pilgrims for Koondooz. Passed by an unfrequented road East of Bamian, through the Hazari country, for sixteen days: the marches about twelve miles—owing to numerous ravines and streams,



some stages were three or four miles only; a very barren region, but heard that to N. W. and towards Killi Nob it was fertile.

*Feb. 8th.*—Reached Khoorzzi, a Kimorz or scattered village, each house separate—in the most convenient place for a farm. Here had to part with ponies, &c. The country of the Kalzubi—who inhabit caves or *Dror* during the winter, and in summer dwellings called Báleej;—they were anciently called Yápats; have dark brown or red beards, live by hunting, and use both cross-bows (*kylash*) and common bow or *kaman*. They shoot their large bow reclining, holding the bow with their feet and pulling the string with both hands.

*14th.*—Most of the party hence went round by Bamian. Proceeded; road very rugged, and much fording through icy water; halted at a grassy place among precipices.

*15th.*—Similar rugged country; halt at a basin of water on top of a black flinty rock, three hundred yards round and of great depth. Caught trout with blood red scales on it, but not allowed to eat them as the place was holy; no visible ruins, but the place was said to have been a city; some rude sculptures and a rock.

*16th.*—Through precipices of Basalt or granite, reach the *Dror* (in the dark) of Khalyze.

*17th.*—At the *Dror*—*Khalgubys* are Turkoman conquerors, *Therbas* the aborigines.

*18th.*—Proceeded along bed of a mountain torrent; ascended, but snow too deep in the pass; had to return and go round by a dark narrow pass closed by rocks overhead, called Hersh's dark pass; ascended to a boggy valley full of deep well-shaped chasms.

Ascending over a great spur; saw forest, and a valley said to lead in five days to Hamidan. Halted at a village called Tháugush. Lead and copper found in the neighbourhood; rock limestone resting on granite.

*19th.*—Robbed by our coolies: heavy rain detained the party.

*20th.*—Delayed on account of swollen torrents. Visit a great cave, and on polished floor a colossal figure, eighteen feet long.

There saw grand cataracts under natural bridge.

*21st.*—Proceed—pass a cave in limestone at its junction with granite.



Violent shock of earthquake ; earth split, &c. ; said to be not common.

Cross a deep chasm by basket and rope, over the Chiganook or Sir-i-Moon, being the source of the Morztab ; a perilous passage along a cliff on pegs stuck in the rock.

Naeb Therman Khan's dwelling, Droo. Detained ; the direct road ahead impassable by snow—might have retraced path to Chiganook, and thence over hills to Deh'Kush, the Ab-i-deb river, and so to Balk.

Strolled to rope-ladder bridge.

23rd.—Garden of pomegranate and mulberry.

24th.—Visit the Moheuns and alkaline lake.

25th.—Propositions to depart ; old traditions.

26th.—Leave Droo or Drohoo, due North ; deep chasms, pines in (MS. illegible).

Halted here. Hot-water spring at a Therba village ; snow on ground.

27th.—N. E. N. much snow ; bivouac under a crag.

28th.—Drizzling and hot ; still among snow ; great avalanches ; grand panoramic view.

Descend ; halt at some Therba huts called Nárk, where some altercation with slave-dealers.

March 1st.—North : cross Siák river by rope-bridge ; deer numerous ; halt in ravine.

2nd.—Lose way, but reach ruins of Killi Kafir.

3rd.—Description of ruins ; intricate ravines ; pass numerous tunnels ; meet first Turkomans ; get horses there.

4th.—Try to join a Kafilá of Nyha traders at Bilkrai.

5th.—Therman Khan's son Ibrahim leaves them, arrangements for going on.

6th.—Join the caravan at Niok, a watering-station, five days N. E. of Minnoo.

7th.—Halted ; beds of shells ; hears news of his former companion, M. Shrotzky.

[Here occurs a break in the journal, a volume having been lost, giving an account of his visit to Bokhara, and adventures there, including a very dangerous illness.]



*June 26th.*—Leaves Qordook ; barren, rugged country to Kolâr ; new companion—a pîrzada of Mushid, a ventriloquist and saint, flying from Cabul on account of a murder and intrigue, also a Hindu named Jyram, a Therba servant and an Affghan.

*27th.*—Kolâr to Kundûz ; numerous pools on almost inaccessible pinnacles of rock.

*28th and 29th.*—Detained at Kundûz by Meer Ali Morad Shah.

*30th.*—Set off, and again detained.

*July 1st.*—Very hilly country covered with thorny bush, with grand view of snowy mountains.

Ten miles through fertile valley of Shool, counted 27 pools on the hills within 4 miles ; wild ravines.

*Fort of Oosrooth* ; 1000 houses. A road thence by Kroo to Kaffir-stan, and by Hindus and Mân.

*2nd.*—Very dangerous road to *Shohaal*, which belongs to Rustam Khan ; plundered by one Khan Mohammad ; with difficulty avoid going on the reprisal expedition.

*3rd.*—Most rugged country to *Khornúshú*, a very curious fort. Ascent by steep steps on hands and feet to a narrow ledge of rock, —thence by a ladder of skin-rope (or baskets and windlass) to the top, where there is a remarkable fountain ; the rock, primitive limestone ; the basin about 20 feet wide and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  deep in centre, gradually sloping—always bubbling and brilliantly clear ; cold in summer and hot in winter, when it hisses with a loud noise like *Noo Shoo* ; always full and never overflows ; all impurities immediately carried off. Fort very ancient with caverns used now as granaries.

Echo most remarkable from a wall-piece ; running up a long valley increasing in loudness, then dying away as it returns, again increasing and again subsiding, three times, the third the loudest.

The hill is described as 180 to 200 yards in circumference at the summit and 250—300 at base, and 2100 feet high.

The tradition is, that when Noah was at Mecca the chief of this land, “Khor” by name, was converted to Islâm and went to pay his respects. Noah now promised to grant him a favour on which Khor bellowed out in a rude voice “Water ;” this demand offended Noah, and he cursed the land of Khor which became solid rock ; —however to keep his promise he made this everlasting spring at



the top of the hill, and sent his grandson Shur to carry out his orders, calling out Nooh Shoooh, which was obeyed, and Echo conveyed the sound to Mecca, and every winter in commemoration thereof, the waters murmur Noah Shoooh, and the Echo carries the sound to Mecca, and the place retains the name of all the parties concerned—*Khornúshú*. Blue limestone shows the limits of Khor's land, still held by his descendants, viz. Rustám Khan on the west, and Mohammad Khan on the east.

Mr. G. was, with his companions, let down the whole distance in baskets.

4th.—Marches on limestone rock, the barren inheritance of Khor, to Khan Mohammad fort of Trimooke, about 14 miles from base of snowy range; situated at the end of a tabular hill:—several hot springs in the neighbourhood.

5th.—Meets party of Bhuri, with Kaffir girls for sale—a continual kidnapping going on in the frontier. There are three main tribes of Kaffirs.

- 1, of the Koh-i-low,
- 2, — Koh-i-káf,
- 3, — Koh-i-ghar,

which last are the Siyahposh Kaffirs of Kabul. The former do not shave the head, save a lock for each Musalmán they kill. The latter shave the head—letting a lock grow for every slain enemy. The most valiant may have a good head of hair or a shaved head as the case may be. One of the slaves was of excessive beauty, and was offered for 50 qai or drops of silver, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce.

During this march they quit the limestone and get into a granitic and quartzose region—stop at the Ziárat of Abba Shah, at the foot of a cliff of granite 900 feet high. A large (80 yards broad) torrent loses itself in a chasm at the base, and there are several caves cut out of the rock above the chasm, where the torrent disappears with much noise.

6th.—Halt at the Ziárat in order to visit four other *Geths* or chasms of similar nature. The fakeers collect herbs, to eat, from the spongy-mossy sides of the rocky dells in which these streams subside. The valley he compares to a great perpendicular cylinder; in the centre of it, a crater-like orifice about 100 yards round; a dark flinty rock.



It is customary to hang certain herbs down this chasm by long ropes for a month, after which, they are considered as panaceas for all diseases. The plant was very bitter, apparently a gentian. It is called Thoceth.

The caves are of various size; inside plain: in one he saw numerous images rudely carved of deities and beasts, and apparently letters. The central smooth pillar, 22 feet high, of the main cave was especially so carved.

He sounds the chasm and gets no bottom at 1140 yards!!! and does not visit the other chasm—rich geological sections.

7th.—From *Abba Geth* diverges about 7 miles. Visits a chasm called Groor-geth. Follows a broad impetuous torrent running at the base of an immense (1000 feet) cliff; the valley is ended by a wall of rock under which the stream vanishes, a rocky island dividing it as it disappears, forming a grand water-fall, meeting 20 feet below.

Thence they ascend to the top in a small valley.

8th.—Continued North East course; rugged mountains interspersed with green valleys; next Khoolook, which lies at the foot of the mountains and border of the desert plain called Esh, which runs from Koondooz twenty-five miles to Pralli; twelve thence to Khoolook.

Delivers Morad Begh's letter to Khan Bahadur; meets a Hindu who has a silver-mounted pocket-compass, and part of a map of India—probably belonging to Moorcroft.

9th.—Halt at Khoolook to visit ruins of an old city called Káfir Derra.

It is situated in a narrow pass. The labyrinthine cave cut in marble, grey, white, brown or black, extending about a mile on each side, of excessive intricacy within; prevented from exploring by innumerable venomous snakes—numerous prostrate pillars sculptured with figures; most of the caves mere burrows, 3 feet high. The city is said to have been depopulated by the snakes, which assume the colour of the ground or rocks they inhabit, blue on the blue marble, green among herbage. The pass at the end of the valley is impracticable on account of the snakes.

About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile due north of Esh, on a bare plain of rock, a colossal



horse in pitchstone, now lying on its side, measure 55 feet from top of the ear to hoof, 42 from chest to tail; legs 14 feet. Two other similar horses, also in ruins, lie on other two sides of Esh, so as to form a right-angled triangle round it.

10th.—From Khoolook, E., pass Prâl to the right, cross the desert, kill an antelope and bivouac by a pool in a ravine.

11th.—Desert; pass a few pools; robbed by Bhurs of every thing; wolves and leopards and hyenas all night.

12th.—March through desert to Oosfung; a charitable chief gave clothes and guides.

13th.—Through desert to Coom; great forest to the south towards Prâl in which the Bhurs escaped.

Forest called Erbabfung; wolves in packs of 1000. *Fung* means forest in Káfir. This forest, he says, extends to the borders of Deer and Deord and Pahlooth.

14th.—Leave Coom for Budukshán, meet *Obas* of Oosbres; halt at one.

16th.—Mud fort Agsa; black mail in shape of guides to Shoolash—a little cultivation.

17th.—Flat and level country; passed Shoh, and put up at an Oba.

18th.—Over well-peopled country to Budukshán; stopped at a Ziárat in suburbs.

24th.—Leave Budukshán. Easterly, well-cultivated, to Shoh.

26th.—Reached low hills and ravines. Trap and greenstone;—old ruined fort of Durum under basalt cliffs—report of old caves—marks of old mines, he suspects for topaz, in a stratum of quartz and lithomarge! some limestone with shells; wandering about, looking for jewels apparently.

27th.—The basaltic cliffs assume fanciful shapes; supposed to be Káfirs petrified by Abraham. One very remarkable human face on the precipitous sides of a dark ravine of amygdaloid rock is called Babo Boolan, about 25 feet in height, with monstrous red eyes and mouth and aquiline nose:—they are objects of extreme dread to the natives.

28th.—Reached this ravine and hills, resorts of wandering Moor, Shoolies and Usbecks.

31st.—Reached foot of Altan mountains, stopped at a stone fort,



called Ooz, belonging to a Shooly chief; met 3 Hindus, Suniyassis who had been on a pilgrimage to a volcano in Khirghiz! They had left Hindustan, by Kashmir and Baltistan, through Gilgit, and the Oordoo pass.

About five miles from Ooz is a chasm about 50 feet long, out of which smoke is continually emitted, sometimes white sometimes dark; edges of chasm lined with sulphur and bitumen: can't make out the rock, lava? or basalt? Traces of silver,—gold washed from debris and sand of rock—copper, especially in some of the Geths, where the water is nauseating—galena and tin? (with doubt), also found in some parts.

*August 1st.*—A long march to Shoh, a small fort at bottom of a deep ravine or pass which it commanded—chief's name Mânûssa. Proceeded to see the ruins of the city along a ravine 500 yards, and then through a narrow chasm to a sort of natural gateway, and entered the ancient city. An amphitheatre of rock surrounded a small round verdant vale. The cliffs of immense height almost perpendicular, and crowned with fantastic needle-shaped pinnacles, while the caves were excavated in ledges or tiers above one another. They returned through a natural arch 90 feet high, 25 broad and gradually narrowing to 3 or 4, and ending in a chasm by which they returned—so narrow, that they could scarcely squeeze their way through.

The Shoovies' hospitality consisted in forcing enormous quantities of melted butter on their guests.

*2nd.*—Revisits the city of Shoh in detail; returns by the narrow fissure—an arid way, the Eastern end is ornamented with rude sculptures to about 15 feet high. The cave was about 60 yards long due E. and W.; the Western entrance 40 feet high by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 wide.

In front of the gate is a chiselled platform 6 feet high, 20 square.

This leads to a closed amphitheatre which is described as a mile in diameter, the bounding rocks 1500 feet high, and the mountains encircling them 3 or 4000, having a chasm of 3 or 4 miles.

The centre is a green mossy oval of about 300 yards broad, surrounded by excavations,—circular or square caves,—outside of which are peristyles, arcades and columns in eighteen different ranges;—the columns very irregular, varying from fifteen to eighty feet in height. From the lofty mountains, fell innumerable cascades down into



deep ravines which wound away to the east, and formed a tributary to the Oxus: none fell actually into the amphitheatre itself. There were but few images carved on the pillars, all very rude in form, some obscene, but highly polished, the smaller hieroglyphics, resembling those at Abba Geth, were neatly finished.

But the most surprising part of the narration is the acoustic effects of the wind and water-falls producing musical notes, which give different effects, louder or softer, according to the situation of the stander, at the base resembling an Æolian harp, in the middle tiers an organ, while in the higher places, military music.

3rd.—Proceeds towards Derra Derwas through rugged mountains, stops at caves occupied by two devotees, who worship the sun and certain idols. The principal of whom they styled Akoo or Hakoo (which may have some connection with Akâ Carbghar) the other "Shoob," (query Shiva?) whom they consider the titular deity of the Shooly tribe.

4th.—Through rugged mountains to the fort of Droo at the south entrance of the Derra; here crossed the stream found by the Shooch cascades.

5th.—Left Droo and enter the pass. The Oxus here pretty considerable; most of the tributaries from the westward; the pass to Tundrel westerly to the post of Cheela.

A considerable post on the side of the mountain;—north of the pass and on the western side of the mountain, at the foot of the fort, a village of 7-8000 inhabitants, partly Moghul partly Shooly. The chief, a very obliging Moghul. To the east of the village a narrow culturable valley lay N. and S. About a mile off the sources of the Oxus. A long series of spongy ground lies at the base of basaltic mountains, and the springs collecting into one body flow out to the S. then E. for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  days march, entered then E. S. E. into the Derra Derwas, 30 miles beyond Cheela, and then westerly to Turkistan.



*Distribution of the Kafir tribes.*

Great Kafirs Koh i Ghâr, .....	80,000	} Generally called the Kafirs.	} In Turkistan proper.
Kâf, .....	50,000		
Loo, .....	25,000		
Kafirs of Esh, .....	15,000		
Oohshah,.....	12,000	} Not Mahomedans, but not included in common parlance among the <i>Kafirs</i> .	
Khâl Krooh, .....	12,000		
Gob or Gabr, .....	12,000		
Ghâr or Gharri, .....	12,000		
Lâh or Lâshi, .....	12,000		
Oodoo, .....	12,000		
Phalooth or Phah, .....	12,000		
Shooli or Shoh, .....	15,000		
Khoorook or Kroo,.....	12,200		
Therba or Thur, .....	12,000		
Bhur, .....	25,000		
Mâr,.....	40,000		
Akaa or Cushyhar, .....	250,000		
Boo or Boolee,.....	12,000	} On borders of Turkistan, Hindus or Budhists.	
Kahooz or Hoohee,.....	12,000		
Phah or Phagi, .....	12,000		
Aspah, .....	12,000		
Koolees, .....	12,000		
Mookloo, .....	12,000		
Maha, .....	12,000		
Kalesh, Lesh, Malesh, .....	12,000		
Beh or Behel, .....	12,000		
Plahi or Plaaghii, .....	12,000		
Bhoti, .....	12,000		

The language has no resemblance to Persian or Arabic, but has some to Sanscrit ?

The Akaa tribes bear nominal allegiance to Yarkund, the rest seem quite independant—some trace of Geber or fire-worship exists among them.

[Here another hiatus occurs in the Journal.]

27th.—Reached the Oostam pass, whence rises the Jeljow river, which runs W. to Ulook where it joins the Karoo from E. N. E. (from Poofean in the Aktagh), thence W. to Rorlaar where it meets the Koorkor from S. E. (rising in the Karatagh), thence W. (and takes the name of Zarafshân or Samarkand River) to Faalghâr, thence by Dhomzul where it is joined by the Lohthoo (which rises at Noo'



Abool in the Konijuk Mountains, two stages E. of Durbend) from Domzul W. by Keemo and Paban, to Koor where it is joined by the Kom (which rises in N. E. out of a lake of Kom in the valley of Yar Ailak at S. base of the Yar Tagh) ; from Kom by Ormaz where the Oor meets it from the south, rising in the Kânuth M. ; it is subsequently joined by the Sanch or Pungkund at Tanoor from the S. by the Joonoojup at Oosk, from the lake of same name,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  day from E. of Oranthopa, a large place on south side of the Aktagh ; being joined at Zoon by the Noodoorth, which rises in Lake Maz, two days east of Karatess, and passes by Dizukooch.

From Dook the Zurafshan runs W. to Samarkand, about 250 miles from Oosk.

To the S. of the pass, a day's journey, under the peak of Nouont Kaw rise the Soorkhab or red river, (also called Kafirnoohan,) and Hazár Hoon, two main branches of the Oxus.

The Kafirnoohan runs S. W. to Zinoo ; thence to Taux, where it is joined by the Molpooth (rising in mountains of same name) ; S. to Sheroog, where it meets the Zerâb, which runs N. E. in the Molpooth mountains ; passing Shadmar, joins the Amoo at Tahoothen. The Soorkhab rises N. E. of Nornuth Kan, runs by Madpooth joined by Aubkoor from Lake Khiangkul, thence S. and W. to Shunwar, where it joins the Oosh from E. (from Lake Kara Kul,) thence S. to Khâratagoon, S. W. to Cessopek, where it meets the Numa, rising at Taux to N. W., thence S. by Rahamoot, Boolgwan, Yargaan, Dop-pa, where it meets the Darri Druwas, or Bolor branch, thence S. W. to Chukti and Khojahar, where it meets the Kant Tagh or Budukshan and is first called the Amu.

The fort of Oostam is said to have been built by a son of Timur, named Rustum ;—half the inhabitants Mahommedan Moghuls, the rest Akaas.

The foundations of the fort are of Cyclopean architecture ; squared blocks 24 feet long.

28th.—Entered the pass—bottom of deep ravines, continually wading. Halted at springs.

29th.—Proceeded through deep ravines, but less wading.

30th.—Met three Akaas going to Ausgess—large flocks of wild goats. Akaas brought five down with arrows. They had several bows ;



the Therba had a larger one. Kills a large eagle, said to be migrating—dark brown with triangular spots of grey and white; legs clothed to the toes; tail black tipped. Reach Ausgess, a small fortress near the ruins of a considerable one; only inhabited by Akaas; fed with butter by the chief.

Met three Moghul merchants, who join their party; intend stopping at Oossoobuk for a caravan.

31st.—Proceed E. and N. E.; reach Oorcombuk, a large well built fort on brink of a precipice to E., at E. end of the Oostum pass, twenty days S. W. of Cashgar; joined by seven more Yarkund merchants—the caravan had preceded them.

The Akaas are short, stout and hardy, but few Mahommedans, except the tribe Ojuem near Andijan—women not handsome—dress, skins. The Keiaz tribe live in caves on the highest peaks; subsist by hunting; keep no flocks; said to be anthropophagous; but have handsome women; eat their flesh raw.

The Keiaz marriage rites are simple, the lover lays his bow at the feet of the lady; if she lifts it up, kisses and returns it, she is his wedded wife. By taking the husband's bow and flinging it on the ground before him, she might divorce herself, and she might secure a husband by unslinging his bow from his shoulder. The husbands have the power of selling their wives. They peculiarly venerate Hindu wanderers, giving up wives and daughters to them; if any progeny result, it is considered as a Demigod.

Two days N. W. of Oorcombuk is a sacred spot of perpetual fire issuing from a rock. The Aktagh Range, as shown in the Oostum pass, consists of gneiss, mica, slate, clay-slates and limestone, with some exception of traps and basalts; specimen of mica half yard square. Gold plentiful in the streams, both washed from the sand, and caught in sheep's fleeces.

Sept. 1st.—Leave Oorcombuk for Yarkund, with *musuks*, i. e. water-bags, tied to horse's belly; E. S. E. to Doonchoo three days. Little water and a few ruins for the first few miles; enter desert, bivouak in a dry ravine.

2nd.—Some pools in a deep spongy ravine, brackish; numerous flocks of antelope and some wild yaks called *Ausuk* by the Akaas; three different species thereof.



3rd.—Continue over arid desert intersected by ravines, reach and ford the Yaman Yar, and reach Doonchoo fort on its S. bank inhabited by the Choo tribe.

4th.—Stops at an Oba of Choos.

5th and 6th.—Had again to carry water.

7th.—Reach Châu, a large village on the River Châu, which rises in the Bolor mountains, ten days S. W.

8th.—Halt at an Oba on the bank of Lake Doon  $1\frac{1}{2}$  by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles; its water is rather brackish, but better than that of the springs; five marches north is a large lake—Doon Hoog, *Doon* meaning lake and *Hoog* large; *hee* means little; numerous other lakes large and small.

9th.—At Doonhee, an Oba of Choos 600 yards by 100, water sweet;—large flocks of geese, &c.

10th.—Over undulating desert to fort of Keshing, near a low range of secondary limestone;—five days W. said to be mines of lead in the Khia fiery hills, and two days further copper at Oostom.

11th.—Through desert, but water plentiful; through low limestone rocks, the chains N. S.; road E. W., none higher than 100 feet; halt at a good well;—attacked by 100 robbers; rocks alternate clay-slate and sandstone, occasionally gneiss appeared, also black slate and conglomerate.

12th.—Proceeded S. E.;—by midday got clear of the ranges; road rocky.

Khoolbrân on the Pohush river said to rise 20 days S. W. at Pooshtee.

Near this is a poisonous well,—not coppery,—unctuous to feel, nauseous to taste, deposits white fine silky threads on knife blade; mercury?

13th.—Stop at an Oba—desolate rocky region.

14th.—Through ravines, in an extensive plain.

15th.—Meet caravan from Yarkund, 100 camels, 50 Tatar soldiers; tea, cloths and silver to Samarkand.

16th.—Bare rocky desert intersected with ravine.

17th.—Ditto reached Mahoo Shung on the banks of the Pohush, built of massive stone, occupied by Kebee tribe of Tatars. Water unwholesome, save a few wells, though it looks and tastes good; people look *green*. Near it the overwhelmed city of Mahoo.



18th.—Halt and visit Mahoo in detail. It is a great tumulus, about 300 feet high and 2 miles round, honey-combs in every direction with chasms and caverns, which are all more or less deleterious from mephitic vapour, encrusted with corrosive salts, grey, yellow and green; no reptiles or bats in the caves. A deep gully allows an approach to the centre nearly, and discloses cut-stone, earthenware and other marks of inhabitants: at the vernal equinox, numbers of Akaas collect, and enter the caves in search of reliques; images large and small and broken, of which he saw seven, some jasper, some of pottery, all pierced, and numerous fragments of vitrified idols; the pilgrims are said occasionally to find large ones; they often perish from the mephitic vapour. The whole ground is a mass of extreme confusion, the upper portion of granite rocks, heaped as it were on the ancient city.

The tradition is that Ma and Hoo, twin brothers, both in descent from Toth, emperor of the east, ruled for some time. Ma was a righteous prince. Hoo murdered him by burying him alive. The prayers of the dying Ma, caused Hoo to be buried alive, and with him all his fellow citizens, the mountain tumbling down upon them.

19th.—Left Mahoosung, through hills; reached Meeshaw. Here the route by Dera Drewas meets this. Beyond this, extensive plains stretch E. and S., which to the N. the distant range of Kalook bounds N. E. and joins the Kebee or Ashan ranges.

20th.—E. S. E., cross immense plains to Shooshee, a small village; meets the first Kebee revenue office.

21st, 22nd, 23rd.—Extensive plains occupied by the Kahall tribes.

24th.—Reached Yarkund. It consists of two cities, one inhabited by the Mahomedan Moghul population, the other by the Chinese or Ketai garrison; gates close at night; 80 to 100,000 souls, 15000 soldiers. There is a Moghul governor (at the time Khan Ali Jan)—the Chinese Governor was Shun Teth.

Tea, green and black, packed in vellum, shawl wool from Chung-tang, Porcelain, and Chrysoprased beads are the principal articles.

27th.—Left Yarkund along the Kroo river to Phoom.

28th.—Khoorgaleek.

29th.—Below or eastern branch of Kroo.

October 1st.—Jaunshun a small pond of bad water.



- 2nd.—Crossed Kroo to Thoongur.
- 3rd.—Re-crossed river Mahazar; river ankle deep.
- 4th.—Panpoon, source of Kroo in Yagnee Dewas range.
- 5th.—Khandook, centre of range at some small springs in ravine.
- 6th.—Site of old ruins; on a plain, low stunted trees.
- 7th.—Khoolam on N. bank of Yarkund River; met a caravan of 200.
- 8th.—Crossed river; thick jungle to Oomah.
- 9th.—S. E. to banks of Khoolkan River; thick low jungle.
- 10th.—Halted on banks of river.
- 11th.—Reached ruins of Khoolkan at the northern base of the Karakorum.
- 12th.—To S. E. through the range to an Oba of Changtung Tartars, three days west of Sernihee.
- 13th.—Through a rocky wilderness E., along range of hills.
- 14th.—Springs; source of the Koo-le-loo, which joins the Indus near Iskardo.
- 15th.—Crossed the stream S. E.; large springs, source of the R. Cherera (the stream rises at a lake called Koofaloo) which runs through Nobra and joins the Indus at Nahoon, 5 days S. of Ladak.
- 16th.—Crossed rocky well-wooded chains.
- 17th.—Ditto ditto.
- 18th.—Due E., west bank of Shaighuk, opposite Tupchan.
- 19th.—To Khamdavu.
- 20th.—S. E. (to avoid crossing the Shaighuk and Ko tak lek) to Dovin—low marshy ground, five miles from river—opposite to Gartop.
- 21st.—Along banks of river to Bolung Belook.
- 22nd.—Ditto to where the Doorgh meets it on opposite side.
- 23rd.—Ditto to Fitkar.
- 24th.—Ditto to Lohoo.
- 25th.—Ditto to Tooknoh, three miles from Akkan.
- 26th.—Crossed the river; to Meloor, 5 miles S of Dooghan.
- 27th.—S. to Chehe.
- 28th.—Arrived at Ladak.
- 30th.—Leave Ladak for Cashmeer; first march to Tunguh. Booj-joo—lead-mines said to be.
- 31st.—To Shohung.



*November 1st.*—Kulsee on north bank of Indus.

*2nd.*—Crossed to Lemeeroo by a rope bridge—a sangar, two miles lower;—about two miles east of village are ruins of a large city called Lormun.

*3rd.*—Koosun.

*4th.*—Kurjull of Peshmul.

*7th.*—Drass near Kishengunge, at base of snowy range.

*8th.*—Left main road to west to take the horses by larger round; kept at huts 500 ft. below snow.

*9th.*—Halted in snow.

*10th.*—Reached Gughunghir; reached Cashmeer on 13th, just in time to escape being snowed out.

*16th.*—Leave Cashmeer, with the Therba, Syed Mir Ali Shah and Jyekam, with two Cashmeer servants, a party of six intending to go by Khaján. Gilgit and Cashgaar road to Cabul, and thence to Pakrood.

*17th.*—To Baramoola.

*18th, 19th.*—Halted two days to sell their horses.

*20th.*—North, to a small village Sehul, at foot of Kukka Brumba mountains; people converted in Aurangzeb's time from Hinduism;—the Kuthrees called Kukka and Brahmans Brumba, hence the name.

*21st.*—N. W. from Kukka Brumba to Choob 22 cos from Baramoola.

*22nd.*—Cross range; halt at huts below snow.

*23rd.*—N. descended to Ameer ke Ghurry.

*24th.*—Deep ravines; crossed Kishengunge at Bukoo; halted at Haji Ghurry.

*25th.*—Dark ravines, then green valley, N. W. Aspeloo Fort of Moorook at head of valley, belonging to Shah Newaz,—very fanatic Mahommedans,—Syuds are every thing;—the *Bolunus* and *Gujars* frequent the mosques all day. Khajum extends to Peeloo and Soogoor on Indus;—butter, a man's load for rupee!

*26th.*—Road through bed of torrent; water very little in morning, increase during day from melting snow;—ascended to foot of snow to Beer.

*27th.*—Pass Poolaik; steep ascent to Shah Husun la Ghur; Meloo Shah, the owner, advises them to keep North of Gilgit to go to Chitral; the Chitral river or Akoo rises in a large lake 6-7 days E. from Bolor or the Peloa Mountain, while on the direct road over



Ashoo Hamoo road from Gilgit; there are six or seven marches through snow in summer.

28th.—Reach Peeloon on Indus; get rid of their Ghonts.

29th.—Frightful march overhanging the Indus, along ledges, &c.; hauled across in a leather bag, nearly opposite the junction of Gilgit River, to Shooghoor. The range is called Ashoo Hamoo to the *Ushur Kafirgulli* pass at sources of the Abba Sind; thence westward the Deer or Durd Mountain. Bramhu and source of river Lunda which it seems is the *Cabul*, of the Bonur of the Abba Sind.

30th.—Cross Gilgit river by rope-bridge, and up its West bank; dreadful path along precipices to Ashnoo. Here in a mosque! in an inner room is an idol, much revered, resembling Neptune with a trident and Greek helmet, black sable, called Konchoo; said to have been found in a hot spring. Near Ashnoo, (old name Oor or Oornath) were extensive ruins of a large city and cave on table-top of a large mountain; a large pond in the middle; remains of old Fort. Greek coins plenty, two of King Maius;—petrifications abundant; they are laid by the image, and then, becoming holy, are panaceas.

The Moolla said they did not worship the image, but respected it as that of the founder of their race, Shoohungrow, grandson either of Solomon or Noah!

The Iskardo people are descended from Askar, son of Alexander by Nargat daughter of Phalgon Raj.

By Oospun daughter of Mamkoosh of Gilgit and Deer, Alexander had two sons Usperan who died, and Ful who was taken away with his mother by Alexander, and became king of Gershon far off in the sea near Mecca;—and by Maihethata daughter of Bambur of Bolor, a Sholee, he had one daughter Lahama who married the son of the Gilgit king.

31st.—Left Aushnoor, very difficult road along W. bank of river; entered valley of Gilgit, 10—15 miles broad to Dairshen where it expands, about 80 or 100 miles long, on W. Gil Hamû mountains, which to S. join the Ashoo Hamoo; they have no pass and are covered with perpetual snow.

To S. of this great range is Yusufzahy, between great and little range; Kafirs dwell in valley of Kahinook; the little range or Kahinook joins the Gilgit near Aushman—Kafirs low, red, broad; blue eyes.



Halted at a ruined fort at Morokagul; village and fort of Tahi at junction of Peloo or Hanzi river with Gilgit, which rises at Khan-koon and passes fort Goolzar; Gilgit town and fort a day's march on E. bank of river.

Prejudice against married women milking; the animal is killed and eaten, else it is thought too divine.

Estimates population at 25 or 30,000 of all Gilgit; revenue 1-10th of produce.

*April 1st.*—Passed 3 or 4 good villages and forts. Halt at Pok Zoleen belonging to a semi-independant chief, Shah Hosyn; a good day's march, S. W. from Gilgit.

*2nd.*—Well cultivated; halt at Stambook, a fort; opposite to Jaâkoo on E. bank, and two miles lower—on E. bank, Booloo. N. E. of B. are hot and salt springs.

*3rd.*—Hugged the base of mountains—much jungle grass—halted at Plunghae Pelongue? valley about 12 miles round. On bank of Peloo, which rises at Kafirkál to S. W. and joins the Gilgit at Mishnik, a fort belonging to Ruvanshun.

To W. of Pelongue is a pond and well, whence rises the Akoo, and runs through great range N. W. and W. to Booshperkai, two days from Duirshen.

*4th.*—Crossed Peloo by raw-hide bridge; rugged country; halted at a ruined fort, Zanzé, on bank of Shangrâf, which is 15 yards wide and was crossed by a hide bridge. Hence a pass leads to Chitrál; Galena found.

*5th.*—N. W. bare, uninhabited country to Shemâl on the Akoo, belonging to chief of Dharm-Dairahim; on opposite side a large river joins, which has two branches from Peloo and Bolor ranges.

Then through Akoos from the Chitrál river—cold—ice 6 inches.

*6th.*—Over rocks and chasms down the Chitrál by the *Shoor* pass to ruins of Káfirwan, fort Cyclopean; narrow valley, rock of immense height; 200 yards lower down a 3rd branch called Thook joins the Akáhoo—Kai e Mâl e Kanki—Chitrál mountains granite, mixed with a black rock of glassy fracture.

*7th.*—Along precipitous sides of the den 30 yards; sometimes even with ropes to help; find two murdered bodies on the road!

Reach post of Booskerkan belonging to a Moorzoom chief Mahom-



medan, half savage, named Joonjuk, dependant on Aunwah. The post is on top of a precipice, but under precipitous mountains all round, so that the sun never shines there.

Avalanches from opposite snowy peaks—portions leap the river.

8th.—Halt—the proper name of Káfirs is Ziak Kaioon; story of two Europeans who were imprisoned and died 60 years ago.

The Moorzooms still worship sun and moon, and respect idols. The Koo or Khookraw—(dirty Khoo,) is a wandering thieving tribe—worship goats and silver, wear their skins in dress, or any black colour, but red ibex or white never. They eat their meat raw. They eat the heart and liver of their own dead.

The Káfirs generally either bury their dead erect in snow, or expose them on some bare precipice, first extracting the heart and liver, which are burned on an altar, then kept; or occasionally as a sign of affection, the ashes are mixed with herbs and eaten.

Here procures a man of medical character, Shaubul Ali, and with a son of Tunguth Shah determines to endeavour to penetrate into the Kaionook (Káfir) country.

9th.—Sets off with Mokl, nephew of Shaubul, Tunguth's son and two other Moorzooms, Joy Ram and the Therbah, the Syud, &c. agreeing to wait at Anony for their return.

Rugged rocks and snow, up and down to ravine with a torrent of melted snow to Khoest, the remains of an old fort and some caves in side of a precipice of immense height, with remains of ruins at the top.

The only residents are Moorzoom fakeers turned Zai. The Zai would not touch the Cashmeer and Kabul Mahommedans, but had no objection to the Hindu and Káfir. *Mamoo* they call Mahommed, and consider him a priest of the Zai order. Zai is the hero-founder of the Khaioo tribe and son of Ool, the god of fire; as an idol he is worshipped as a human head surrounded by fire. That at Zai was cut out of granite, five feet square, in a deep recess, which he was not allowed to approach nearer than ten yards, a line of blood and ochre marking the holy boundary. It was situated at the end of a rocky platform, surrounded by lakes, to reach which they first descended the ravine and then ascended a smaller crevice some 30 or 40 yards long.



Story of two Europeans killed as evil spirits.

10th.—Sends all his papers and goods on with the Syud to wait at Peshank, and proceeds simply armed and in goat-skin dress; rambles about Khoest, while a son of Shaubul got permission for him to proceed.

At the meeting of the Khoest torrent with the Khaima river is a bituminous spring forming a black slimy bed 36 yards long, 5 feet thick, at the foot of a precipitous rocky ridge—beneath it a thin stratum of greenish sulphureous matter, then another black bed, looking like metallic scori: two miles from this are emetic springs, used by the natives, which contain copper. The mountains are here composed of granite, on which rests mica slate or clay slate, with occasional masses of lime-stone and sandstone with fossil shells.

Large mountain-deer numerous, also a smaller spotted deer, ibex, goats, &c. &c. &c.; two sorts of musk; the drug is only used for magic, not collected, and the flesh not eaten.

Tradition of the Oosthoo pigmy tribe, now represented by the Khoo and a few wanderers in the most inaccessible recesses, who use slings with great skill.

(Tale of Alexander's conquest of Peshawur is here inserted, (Gandur, the Eusufzahy country), and how the remnants of his army and the Gandurites were repulsed by the Hindus; forced to shelter in the higher ranges and thus founded the Káfir race.)

Snow heavy.

21st.—The Rahk, or disciple returns with an invitation to visit Sheheh Thaiu, with two Oorgs or priests to show the way; hands and feet again examined if broke.

22d.—Ascended the stream to North, on West bank about five miles to cross by a log thrown across the top of a frightful chasm; most difficult path rendered worse by snow and ice; to summit of ridge 2000 yards. Continued Southerly on E. bank of river; rested for night in a cave opposite Khoest. Their food was toasted *Sall*, (seed of an herb) and Kheira or Khee? with Laiss (wild garlic).

23rd.—S. and S. E. rocky bare region; granite and limestone to a



natural reservoir in limestone, called Loong, a short day's march N. N. W. from Thesprâk where there is a village of Khoioos—holy shrine and springs, caves and two idols called *Keoo* and *Beth*.

24th.—E. and by S. at first very barren and rugged—then through vales with alpine flowers; meet hunters of Khioo tribe, at Prâ; ruins of a round tower; a cave commences here, said to lead to Thesprâk.

Hunters had an ibex, a chamois, and a *quee*, a small goat, the size of a cat. They were dressed in chamois skins, hair outside, and bear skin caps; head shaved (the Oorgs had long hair).

25th.—Along a deep ravine N. E. to foot of snowy range, then S. and S. E.; crossed numerous currents over logs; very barren; two hours before sunset reached base of Shehelkhale; ascent very steep; loose stones and rocks, nearly to snow line; passed sunset when they reached the caves.

Dinner of half roast goat, and uncooked preserved bear's meat, with oongzoo, a sort of tart, wine to drink.

26th.—Before breakfast, looked about innumerable scattered caves; very small entrances, dug in gravelly bank of mountain; 2000 feet below is a wooded ravine, the orchard and vineyard of the place, which has about 900 inhabitants. The Shoosher river empties into Khaiemah two stages below Chitrâl.

27th.—Description of the women, dress, &c. &c. At noon proceed to the shrine; descended  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour to vineyard and fruit trees.

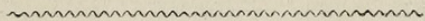
An earthquake, which forced them to halt in caves, where an old man of 150, lived with 5 generations of descendants, his sons, white beards, of 80.

28th.—Reached the shrine in  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a day; caves in face of a very high cliff; narrow and difficult path, and steep ascent to platform and cave where the Oorgs live; thence ascended again to a platform, 15 yards by 2; entered cave  $4\frac{1}{2}$  or 5 feet high, 3 broad, widened to 15 feet; after 80 yards heightened to 25 feet, a fissure, 2 ft. wide; entered through it into a large cavity 36 yards round and 50 high; on N. side of it two figures cut out of the *Shehel*; that on the right Sheh, on left Heh (or Zahel); by a less difficult path over the rock and to a ravine to the saline springs, which are both cathartic and emetic.



29<sup>th</sup>.—Returned to the old man, and halted some days for guides till 5<sup>th</sup> May, strolling about many deserted caves, and a large cave with idols—the original shrine deserted, because injured by earthquakes.

[Here the Journal ceases, the next volume describing the journey through Kafiristan, was lent to Sir A. Burnes and lost.]











Edgeworth, Michael Pakenham. 1854. "Abstract of a Journal Kept by Mr. Gardiner During his Travels in Central Asia—with a Note and Introduction." *The journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* 22(III), 283–306.

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