

Confidential Memo., No. 101, dated Yarkund, 25th November 1873.

From—~~Her Majesty's~~ Envoy and Plenipotentiary to Yarkund,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

SINCE the last mail bag was despatched I have had some trouble, owing to a strong attempt made by some evil designed persons to excite a religious feeling against the Hindoos; and anonymous and false complaints were brought before Syud Yakoob Khan. There was good ground for suspecting Bunyad Ali to be the primary mover in this business, and circumstances transpired which obliged me to place Faiz Buksh in confinement and to search his papers. A Court of Enquiry composed of Colonel Gordon, Dr. Bellew, and Captain Biddulph was ordered and has recorded proceedings which can be inspected on our return to India. Enough has been elicited to show that confidence cannot be placed in Faiz Buksh, and as a precautionary measure he will be kept under surveillance till the Treaty is signed. The Syud took rather a serious view of the matter, for if once the Priests' prejudices are roused he says the Atalik Ghazee dare not oppose them, and the Syud is aware that the Dadkhwah is at heart jealous of his success and would not be sorry to see him thwarted; and matters became more complicated by the sudden appearance of Kassim Akoon and certain Cashmerees in the city. The Syud has heard that this man received two thousand rupees from the Maharaja, for which of course some service is expected in return.

The position is sufficiently delicate to cause anxiety from which I will not be free till the Treaty is signed. I have placed the safety of the Mission in the Syud's hands and followed his advice. Bunyad Ali was sent for and the Syud in my presence told him plainly that as I have papers in his writing which would convict him in any Court, we hold him responsible for putting an end to all this agitation, and should it again break out he would find Hindoostan and this country too hot to hold him.

This perhaps will have the desired effect. As regards Kassim Akoon, the Syud is to have him removed from Kogyar to some more remote part, but I fear there is no getting command over the Cashmere party.

It must not be forgotten that Ramdeen tried to accompany us, and held a duplicate set of orders from Kirparam to suit his own purpose. I still wish to believe that the Maharaja is sincere, but the Syud concurs with me in distrusting Kirparam and Nukshbundi.

I have not been able to do anything in the way of sending men to open out the dak *via* Budukshan though it is exceedingly desirable that this should be done had I men to employ. Afzul Khan, whom I intended to utilize in this way, is the only man I trust here, so he cannot be spared.

Abraham Khan has disappointed me, and Faiz Buksh has put himself out of the question altogether.

Besides, there are two men employed by the Punjab Government here. These men ought not to be acting independently of this mission, and I have told them that so long as I am in the country they must consider themselves as under my orders; and should the Punjab Government wish to communicate with either of them, I shall be much obliged if His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will make me the medium.

Since my arrival here a detachment of troops has come in from Manass, and I learn that the Atalik's son, Beg Kulli Beg, after taking Manass had a fight with the Chinese somewhere in the direction of Koomul and was defeated; after which the Beg Kulli Beg appointed a relative of Daood-Kulfi (who died about five months ago), Governor of Manass and leaving a garrison of troops there returned to Oorumtsi. It is said that the distance between Manass and Kuldja is 16 posting stages, of which above one-half are

in the hands of the Atalik and the other half belong to the Russians, a mountainous pass dividing the two Powers. It is said that the Russians assisted the Chinese in their late fight with Beg Kulli Beg by sending them double-barrelled guns; this would accord with the information given by Mr. Wade to the Viceroy in his letter of June last. It is also said here that some of the Mauass people have fled to Kuldja, and this accords with the statement made by Mr. Vemiskoff (see Michell's confidential papers, No. XLVI. of the 11th May).

That the Atalik has brought himself into dangerous proximity to the Russians on his north-west frontier is very evident, and this increases his dread of that Power. Syud Yakoob Khan deprecates this advance beyond the mountains, which were easily defensible, into the northern valleys, as rendering the Atalik exposed to attacks on both sides.

10703 Confidential Memo., No. 109, dated Kashgar, 11th December 1873.

From—~~Her Majesty's Envoy and Plenipotentiary~~ to Yarkund,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

My public letter and extract from Diary describes the welcome we have received, and there can be no manner of doubt that the Ameer is most anxious to place the relations between our two Governments on a firm basis.

As yet I have had no private interviews with him direct, but Syud Yakoob Khan has had several confidential communications with me on the part of his master. It would be premature for me to give details; but, in a general way, I may say that matters look most promising.

The Ameer has an overpowering dread of Russia. I have persistently impressed on him through the Syud the absolute necessity for the strictest fidelity on his part to any engagements entered into with the Russians or any nation, and that the best way of securing immunity from molestation is to maintain the greatest friendship with his neighbours.

I have not failed to point out that the smallest act of bad faith would imperil his position, and he could not then look for the friendly offices of either Turkey or England.

It is quite understood and acknowledged that we are friends with Russia, and would not countenance any proceedings likely to give umbrage to that Power.

By leaving Yarkund we have freed ourselves from an atmosphere of intrigue and trouble, and from what I can observe here I do not anticipate much trouble from the Cashmere quarter: Syud Yakoob Khan has informed me that K. A. has been removed from Kogyar: F. B. has been punished for his misconduct and now is employed; situated as we are I could not get rid of him; moreover, after the salutary lesson he has learned, I believe he will behave well.

I hear from Syud Yakoob Khan that within the last month or six weeks the Russians have sustained severe loss at the hands of the Takke Turkomans, and that many Russian soldiers, maimed and wounded, have found their way in flight to Bokhara and Samarcand. Baron Kaulbars, the Envoy who came here last year, is said to have been killed.

An Envoy has just come from Budukshan, but for the present remains at Yangi Hissar. The Syud could not tell me whether he had come on behalf of Meer Jehandar Khan or on that of Mahomed Shah.

Syud Yakoob Khan recalled to my memory his having told me in India that Feroze Shah was, as he thought, in Kotan. He now says that he met Feroze Shah in Constantinople. He describes him as having something the matter with his eyes and having a limping gait. Feroze Shah went to the Syud there to ask him to intercede for him with the Grand Vizier, who had stopped his allowance.