

Oozbegs put forth by the former was not accepted by the latter parties on account of the difference in their religions. It has been reported to the Shah of Bokhara that, after the capture of Khiva, the Russians intend to invade the Kashgar territories. The former Rulers of Shuhur Subz and Kolab (Surra Beg), who fled from the hands of Russians and took refuge with the Meer of Kokhand, were arrested and sent back to them by the Meer; they are still captives at Samarcand. ^a

There is a rumour at Bokhara that Meer Yakoob Beg Kushbegi, the Chief of Kashgar, has opened communication with the British Government. The Russians are also well informed of this fact.

(37.) It was also ascertained at Bokhara that the Russians have for a long time past been excavating a canal (which, however, will not be ready for many years) navigable for ships and large boats from the Karra Deengiz (Caspian Sea), which they will join to the sea of Kheewah (Aral Sea), so that vessels from the Deengiz may be easily able to come to Khokand or to Balkh by the Rivers Oxus and Jaxartes. The King of Bokhara had promised payment of a heavy sum to the Russians on account of costs of war sustained by them, which was paid by instalments at each harvest; but the present year's instalment does not appear to have been paid during the last nine months, and as no demands have yet been made by the Russians, it is considered that the balance must have been remitted by the Emperor at the time of the Prince visiting Russia.

(38.) It was ascertained that Shahzadah Feroze Shah, who had absconded from Delhi to Persia, once arrived at Bokhara, but after a few years he went to the Akhoond of Swat *via* Balkh, Cabul, the Mohmund country, and Bajour, and when Samarcand was taken by the Russians, Feroze Shah returned there and obtained a stipend of five gold tillahs ^b per diem from the Russian Governor. He also offered the Governor of Samarcand that, if the Emperor could assist him with an army for the capture of Delhi, he would pay Rupees 1,00,000 per diem at every stage for the expense of the troops, but this application was rejected by the Governor. Feroze Shah at last gave himself up to luxury, and his allowance was, consequently, reduced to one-half.

Afterwards he left Samarcand and proceeded to Shuhur Subz, where he obtained a good stipend, but before the Russian invasion of the latter place he had quitted and proceeded to Khokand, where he still draws a subsistence allowance from the Meer. ^c

(39.) Forty guns properly mounted and kept clean are constantly standing at the front of the fort, and about 300 guns (dismounted) were kept in a house locked up at the south gate of the fort. The Ruler of Bokhara has recently levied an army of 10,000 (horse and foot), which is being properly disciplined and drilled every day.

When Abdool Rahman Khan was at Bokhara there was a quarrel between five sepoy's of his troops and about 50 persons in the King's employ: the latter

^a This takes on the Meer of Kolab from the point where party No. 1 leave him (para. 24). Mahomed Akbar left Surra Beg at Cabul, after the death of his cousin, the Meer's Wazeer, and it then appeared doubtful when the Meer would be able to get away either towards Yarkund, where Yakoob Kushbegi had invited him, or to his relative, the Meer of Kokhand, whither Yakoob had advised him by preference to go. It now appears that Surra Beg at last left Cabul and reached Kokhand, where Russian influence, they being interested in the Bokhariat politics towards Kolab, procured his arrest, lest he should disturb his nephew, Alum Khan, the Bokhara nominee. (For notice of the intrigues between these Tajik countries and Bokhara, see Wheeler, para. 137, and Vambery's Sketches, p. 333, note).

^b The tillah is 5 Rupees.
The tenghe is $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas. } Roughly.
(Vambery, pp. 332 and 376.)

^c This differs in some respects from Pera's account (para. 28).

Movements of the rebel Feroze Shah.

No. 97. From the Secretary to Government, Punjab and its Dependencies, to the Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department, with the Governor General, Simla,—(No. 497-728, dated Murree, the 14th September 1864.)

With reference to your No. 395, dated 19th ultimo, regarding the rebel Feroze Shah, I am directed to forward copy of a letter addressed to the Commissioner of the Peshawur division and of that officer's reply, from which it will be seen that Major James considers the moonshee now in charge of the vakeel's Office at Cabul will be perfectly able to conduct the necessary enquiries, and that he has been addressed by the Commissioner on the subject.

No. 98. Copy of a letter from the Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Peshawur Division,—(No. 652, dated the 31st August 1864.)

I AM directed to forward copy of a letter from the Supreme Government regarding expected visit of the rebel Feroze Shah to Cabul, and with reference to the absence of our vakeel from that city, to request your opinion as to whether one should not proceed thither at once.

Copy of a letter from the Commissioner and Superintendent, Peshawur Division, to the Secretary to Government, Punjab,—(No. 126, dated the 2nd September 1864.)

In reply to your No. 652, of 31st August, I have the honor to state that the moonshee now in charge of the vakeel's Office at Cabul will, I think, be perfectly able to conduct the enquiries alluded to, and I have addressed him on the subject.

2. I will also take other steps for procuring information.