

155

EAST INDIA (BOOTAN).

PAPERS RELATING TO BOOTAN.

(PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND.)

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
15 February 1865.*

333

remained with us faithfully from first to last: without his orders not a man would have crossed the frontier under such discouraging circumstances as those under which we entered the country. He kept all the accounts of the pay and rations of the whole of the camp followers, obtained supplies for us from the villages, and, though subjected to gross insults and ill-treatment, he was unceasing in his attempts, by counsel and explanation to the suspicious and ignorant Bootanese, to secure the objects of the mission. His knowledge of the habits and language of the people were of the greatest service to us, and his widely-spread reputation as an honest and scrupulous administrator in his own country secured for us a welcome in all the villages of West Bootan. He supplied us with guides from the Sikkim monasteries, and nothing but the cheerful and confident manner in which he faced all difficulties induced our desponding and alarmed camp followers to persevere. This is the second occasion on which I have been associated with the Lama in a duty of this nature, and I know no native gentleman for whom I have a higher esteem, or whom I believe to be more thoroughly and unselfishly devoted to the interests of our Government, though not in reality a British subject.

From the Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department, with the Governor General, to the Honourable *A. Eden* (No. 410); dated Simla, 23 August 1864.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 71, of the 25th July 1864, and to inform you that the Governor General in Council, after full consideration, regrets that he cannot modify the opinion expressed in my letter, No. 252, of the 13th July 1864, in regard to those parts of your proceedings when entrusted with the mission to the authorities in Bootan to which your letter refers.

2. I am also instructed to forward, for your information, a copy of paragraph 2 of the Secretary of State's despatch,* No. 30, of the 18th July. * See page 220.

3. His Excellency in Council fully appreciates the valuable services of Captains Austen and Lance and of Dr. Simpson. Now that the Government of India is in possession of the reports† of Captains Austen and Lance, due notice will be taken of their labours; those of Dr. Simpson are not overlooked, and his Excellency will recognise them in a suitable manner at the same time that those of Captains Austen and Lance are acknowledged. † See pages 233-44.

4. To Cheebo Lama, Dewan of Sikkim, his Excellency in Council will address a khurceta, thanking him for the assistance rendered to the mission.

(No. 53.)

From the Honourable *Ashley Eden*, Envoy to Bootan, to Colonel *H. M. Durand*, C. B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department; dated Darjeeling, 20th July 1864.

Sir,

IN my letter, No. 45, dated the 21st April, I have given a detailed and minute account of the proceedings whilst at Paro and Poonakh of the mission to which I was appointed by your letter, No. 495, dated the 11th August 1863. I considered that an account of the ill-treatment to which we were exposed whilst engaged in the duty entrusted to us should for many reasons be kept distinct from my general report on the state of Bootan and on our progress through the country, and in so doing I had the precedent of Captain Pemberton's Mission in 1837. Bootan Mission.

2. Having in view the necessity which has unfortunately been forced upon us of now adopting some decisive and punitive policy towards the Government of Bootan, it seems to me to be expedient that I should briefly review the whole of our political relations with that country from first to last, and that I should describe at length the long series of events which led to the deputation of the mission under my charge, so far as I am able to do so from the records at my disposal.

Renewed proposal
to occupy Bengal
Dooars.

with gun and telescope, and you shall have it." It is clear from this letter that not only are these outrages on British territory committed by Booteah officials, but that the highest authority screens them, probably participating in the plunder. Major Hopkinson urged that his letter, to which the Deb's was a reply, had been intended as a final demand for redress, previous to proceeding to take material guarantees for obtaining it. The letter having failed in obtaining any redress, the agent saw no course open except the enforcement of our demands by commencing with the occupation of the Jelpaish district, or by preference of Darlingcote and Zumercote. He considered that by this course we should inflict punishment on the officers who had chiefly offended against us. In September 1861, the agent reported another serious outrage committed on Cooch Behar subjects, certain Booteahs of Banska Dooar having carried off four elephants and four mahouts; the men and elephants were released by one of the Rajah's jemadars; the Rajah of Cooch Behar took that opportunity of submitting a list of no less than 17 elephants, belonging to residents of his district, which had from time to time been carried off by the Bootanese.

Bootanese proposal
to treat.

20. Shortly after this the Darlingcote Jungpen wrote to the superintendent of Darjeeling, and told him that, having represented to the Deb and Dhurma Rajas the circumstances which had led to the attachment of the Fallacottah estate, he had received instructions to meet the superintendent and make inquiries regarding the offenders, and asked the superintendent to appoint a place of interview. The propriety of complying with this application was referred to the Governor General's agent. Major Hopkinson, however, saw little hope of any satisfactory result from the interview; he considered that ample information regarding the offenders had been furnished to the Government of Bootan, but that, "instead of affording us redress or satisfaction, the only way in which they have ever condescended to notice our demands has been by answers always evasive and sometimes insolent." In regard to the proposal to negotiate with the Darlingcote Jungpen, he said:—"In reply to the second question, I would submit my very strong doubt of the expediency of allowing the Dalimkote Soubah an interview with Dr. Campbell, so far as such an interview could be held to imply the recognition of the right of the Dalimkote Soubah to discuss Bootan affairs, and to act as the representative of the Bootan Government. The Dalimkote Soubah is simply a second-class deputy commissioner under the order of the Paro Pillo, or Commissioner for the Western Districts of Bootan, who is altogether inferior in position, power, and influence to the Tongso Pillo, or Commissioner for the Eastern districts. The Dalimkote Soubah is only one of six deputies, and has no control over those of his brother Soubahs, as of Banska, or Bulka, or Cheerang, against whom we have the greatest cause of complaint. With one of these Soubahs the Dalimkote Raja is said to be even now at feud, and thus our connecting ourselves with him might provoke instead of prevent attacks on our frontier."

"Looking to the Dalimkote Soubah's position there is a certain impertinence, I think, in the tenor of his letter to Dr. Campbell, but it is easily conceivable why he puts himself forward so prominently in the matter, since, though the rent of the Ambarce Fallacottah is assumed to be withheld from the Bootan Government, it is probably the Dalimkote Soubah, through whom it is remitted, who really loses it, or the greater part of it.

"No doubt, besides the pecuniary consideration, there are other inducements nearly as valuable to make the Dalimkote Soubah desirous of establishing relations between himself and the British Government. If he could pretend with some face to be the confidant of the British Government, and the exponent of their sentiments to the Bootan authorities, there is no saying how far the pretension might not carry him; the appearance of our good will and confidence would be also very useful to him in his present quarrel with the Gopal-gunge Raja, in which, I hear, one of his men was lately killed.

"I should not expect much advantage in dealing with the Dalimkote Soubah even were he the accredited agent of the Deb and Dhurm Rajas, because all experience of Tartar courts shows the futility of negotiating with agents instead of with principals.

"The best feature in the Dalimkote Soubah's communication is, I think, the evidence it affords of his anxiety for a resumption of cash payments of the Ambarce Fallacottah rents. It is quite evident that, to make them sure, he would do his best to keep on good terms with us, and give us no grounds of offence; and from this circumstance, as well as from the result of the course taken in regard to the Assam Dooars, we may conclude that, if we were to take possession of the Bengal Dooars and promise an allowance for them to the Bootan authorities, the Soubahs would be kept on their best behaviour by the fear of payment being withheld."

Proposal to send
a mission.

21. At the same time Major Hopkinson addressed another letter to the Government of Bengal, in which he stated the position of affairs with Bootan in the following words:—

"I am myself inclined to think that it is almost unreasonable to expect any satisfaction from the Deb Raja, and that though, for some purposes, it may be a useful fiction to assume that we are in correspondence with him, and nothing else, nothing short of our having a European functionary permanently stationed at the Court of the Deb, could give assurance of our communications reaching him.

"The Pillos are supposed to divide the government of Bootan between them, and in
most

* Letter No. 79, dated 19th November 1861, paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
† Letter No. 76, dated 12th November 1861, paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

most instances, probably, dispose themselves, in the name of the Deb Raja, of such of the references made by us to that authority as fall into their hands.

"But this is not all; for as the Pillos usurp the authority of the Deb, so in turn their authority is encroached upon by the Zimpoons or Soubahs; as was long ago observed, 'it is in the power of the frontier officers not only to intercept any communication which might be addressed to the Deb Raja complaining of their conduct, but so to misrepresent the circumstances that had actually occurred as to make that appear an aggression against their Government which was really an injury to ours.' Our communications with the Bootan Government are transmitted either through the Dewangiri Raja, or else the Bansk Dooar Soubah, and I suspect that it is no unusual occurrence for these functionaries to open our letters, and answer them themselves in the name of the Deb Raja.

"If the Government are still reluctant to enter upon the occupation of the Bengal Dooars, beginning with Jelpaish, as provided in the Despatch of the Government of India, No. 1603 of the 14th April 1857, to which I referred in my letter, No. 60 of the 21st August, and desire that the Bootan Government should have yet another opportunity of making reparation for past offences, and establishing their friendly relations with us on a securer basis than they are at present, it might be well to consider whether it could be afforded in any more satisfactory or certain way than by the deputation of a mission to the Deb and Dhurm Rajas at Tassisudon.

"It must be remembered that nothing could exceed the distinction, and marked respect and attention to all its wants, with which Captain Pemberton's mission was everywhere received, and which were continued during the entire period of its stay in Bootan; and I see no reason to suppose that a similar mission would meet with a different reception now, while, if successful, it might terminate in the establishment of a permanent agent at the Bootan Court, and such an agency would be the best instrument for paving the way for friendly intercourse with Lassa."

In forwarding this letter* to the Government of India, the Lieutenant Governor observed that "some course of action of a decided character must be taken." "Of the two courses suggested by Major Hopkinson, namely, the occupation of a portion of the Bootanese territory, or the sending of a mission to Bootan, and constituting a permanent agency at the Court of the Deb Raja, the latter seems to the Lieutenant Governor the more advisable. Indeed in the state of things represented by the agent, unless it were resolved to treat the central Bootan Government as non-existent, he does not see that any other course would be of permanent advantage.

"It does not seem to the Lieutenant Governor that the Governor General's permanent agent in Bootan should be necessarily a European, if a permanent European agent be objected to. A native Vakeel, by whose agency the actual transmission to the ruling power of the representations made by the British Government could be secured, would be of great service.

"With reference to the Dalimkote Soubah's application for an interview with the superintendent of Darjeeling, referred to in the third paragraph of Major Hopkinson's letter of the 19th ultimo, Dr. Campbell has been instructed to recommend the Soubah to address the Governor General's agent on political matters." Lord Canning's general concurrence in this view was communicated to the Bengal Government in Colonel Durand's letter, No. 55, dated 23d of January 1862:—"His Excellency in Council desires me to state that it is very expedient that a mission should be sent to Bootan to explain what our demands are, and what we shall do if they are not conceded, and to make our engagement with Sikhim clearly understood by the Booteahs. But his Excellency in Council is doubtful as to placing an agent in Bootan, and it will be better to leave this question to be decided after the result of the mission is known. Captain Hopkinson should be required to state what arrangements he will consider necessary for the security of the mission."

Government determined to send a mission to Bootan.

But whilst this correspondence regarding the deputation of a mission to Bootan was still going on, the Governor General's agent reported further Booteah outrages. A number of Bootanese of Bulka Dooar, headed by the Bootan frontier official in person, carried off two women and four men from Cooch Behar, plundering a large amount of property; the Raja sent a few Sepoys after the marauders, but the Booteahs fired arrows at them and wounded one man. The Raja of Sidlee was also reported at the same time to have been guilty of several acts of oppression. He in one case carried off 18 buffaloes belonging to a man named Birnarain, and when asked by the Deputy Commissioner to restore them, he insolently replied that they had strayed and damaged crops, and he had therefore sold 10 of them and the remaining eight had died. Another outrage, reported on the same occasion, was the kidnapping of eight British subjects by a Booteah official named Jawla. Here, then, were three gross outrages committed in one single month on various parts of the frontier, any one of which if taken alone was sufficient to constitute a *casus belli* on satisfaction or reparation being refused. On the 3d of January 1862 the Bootanese, on the pretence that it was through the misconduct of the Sikhimese that they had lost Fallacottah, sent 60 armed men, who were said to be acting under the orders of the Darlingcote Jungpen, into Sikhim; they seized and carried off 13 men and women, subjects of Sikhim, and cattle of the value of 495 rupees. The men and women were believed to be sold into slavery. In the following month the agent to the Governor General reported further aggressions. About 50 or 60 armed Booteahs forcibly entered the

Fresh outrages.

* Letter No. 185, dated 11th December 1861, paragraphs 5, 6, and 6.

Darjeeling threatened.

Troops moved up to frontier.

Description of Dooars.

the house of Peda Doss of Mardhas Bhoosa at night, plundered his property, and wounded him. Again, four sepoy and a havildar of Cooch Behar were attacked and wounded by about 400 Booteahs, and one man, named Ishwaree Pandey, was carried away. The Cooch Behar Raja, hearing that the Booteahs had arranged to offer up the sepoy a sacrifice to their god Mahakul, sent a few sepoy to release him; he was traced to the house of the Booteah frontier officer, whose men fired on the advancing party. The fire being returned and some of the Booteahs being wounded, the Booteahs, according to their usual practice, threw away their arms and fled. Ishwaree was found in irons, and released. The Cooch Behar Raja complained that owing to the aggressive conduct of the Bootanese the talooks of Cooch Behar adjoining Bootan would "probably be soon deserted," and he claimed British protection under the treaty of 1773. It was determined to send two companies of infantry to protect him, but as the rains were approaching, and no further incursions were expected at that time of the year, the Cooch Behar Raja ultimately came to the conclusion that there was no necessity to send these men into his territory. But though the Cooch Behar frontier was quiet, the frontier of Rungpore and Darjeeling was very much the reverse. Information was received from four distinct sources of an intended attack on Darjeeling. Insolent demands for the Ambaree revenue were made by the Darlingcote Jungpen, and a considerable force of Booteahs was marched to the Rungpore frontier, and simultaneously arrangements were made for crossing the Teesta for the purpose of attacking Darjeeling. Two companies of H. M.'s 38th Regiment and a wing of the 10th Native Infantry were moved up to the frontier, and outposts were pushed forward from the regiment at Julpigoree. The result of this was that the Bootanese immediately returned to their homes. The Moingoree Jungpen wrote to the Deputy Magistrate of Julpigoree, asking him to meet him as he wished to give up for punishment certain British subjects who had been taken prisoners by him in consequence of their making war against Bootan. It turned out that three of these men were carried off when employed in grazing their cattle; the fourth was a merchant who had to pass along the frontier whilst going from one place to another in British territory. The Soubah had clearly no intention of giving the men up; he endeavoured to make a bargain with them for the surrender of an enemy of his, who he declared had taken refuge in our territory, and eventually retained them and went off to his fort; these men are still prisoners in Bootan. The Soubah also admitted having in his possession elephants belonging to British subjects. The Deputy Magistrate penetrated a short way across the Bootan frontier, and thus describes the state of the Dooars:—"One day I penetrated into the interior a distance of about 10 miles; the country was perfectly desolate. I passed through some villages where there was not a soul to be seen; they had seemingly been deserted some months previously. The domestic fowls left by the inhabitants had become wild; some were perched on the choppers† of the huts, and flew away at my approach, and others feeding in the deserted court-yard ran cackling into the huts for shelter. In one bustee‡ I saw two men and a woman with a child; they all seemed to be starving; they occupied two or three miserable huts, and told me that the inhabitants had mostly all fled, about three months ago, at the approach of the Bootanese soldiers who had come to levy some extraordinary tax in kind. The people fled with their goods and chattels; some were seized and decapitated, others impressed as coolies or labourers and taken away to the hills, and the rest escaped as they best could into the jungles. The two men who told me of all this said they had been spared in consequence of their extreme poverty, and they had moreover been ordered to remain in the deserted village to guard a clump of a few betel-nut trees about a quarter of a mile distant. These poor people were picking the stray grains of rice out of a heap of husks when I rode up to them (about 2 P.M.); they had been at this work since the morning, and had each collected about a handful. I asked them if they had nothing else; they said 'no;' they supported themselves by collecting alms from the market people at a hat some five miles away, which was held every third day; but even this resource had failed them, as the hat had been for some cause or other interrupted. I gave them a trifle and went away.

"I observed that the people on the Bootan side of the border, as far as I penetrated into the interior, were all Bengallees; there were both Hindoos and Mahomedans; the former divided into various castes, the lowest of which was the *Mech*; but they were all in every respect totally distinct from the Bootanese, and assimilated closely to, if they were not indeed identical with, the various castes on our side and in Cooch Behar. The language they spoke was Bengallee, the idiom being even the same as that prevalent in the neighbourhood of Julpigoree, Patgong, &c. I must in this, however, except the *Mech* caste; who speak a rough coarse sort of Bengallee peculiar to themselves.

"The soil is said to be very productive, but there is not a thousandth part of the land under cultivation: it is overrun with jungle. Vast tracts are covered with wild cardamum; growing dense and high, so high as to overtop me standing in the howdah; these tracts are the haunts of the rhinoceros, of which there must have been hundreds, as indicated by the numerous fresh footprints of these beasts in the rich, dark, loamy soil. There were numerous streams meandering silently through these enormous tracts of luxuriant jungle: Here and there fire had passed through it and cleared it thoroughly of everything; there

° Letter No. 38, dated 14 March 1862, paragraphs 3, 4 and 6.

†. Roofs.

‡. Village.

was hardly a bird to be seen, and for the time it was the very picture of desolation; its tenants, the wild beasts (rhinoceros, tigers, hogs, deer, bears, &c.), had all taken flight. This shows how easily the land might be cleared and reclaimed. There were also some tracts of forest-jungle with an undergrowth of long grass, which only required a little fire to disclose the rich soil it had usurped. What splendid cotton land might not be found in all that deserted waste! A few thousand ploughmen would very soon reclaim every culturable acre of it." The Deputy Magistrate gives the following brief statement of the result of his negotiations with the Soubah:—"The Soubah has by his own showing four British subjects in confinement, whom he accuses of having made war against him. He offered to hand over these men to me, with proofs of their guilt, if I would grant him an interview. I proceeded to the border and granted him the interview, but he neither delivered up the men, nor did he furnish a tittle of evidence against them; on the contrary, he requested me to seize a lot of other men, on a similar accusation, against whom there was no evidence, and he now reiterates that request, and wishes me, moreover, to punish them in anticipation of his furnishing evidence of their guilt. The men he has in confinement may or may not be guilty of the offence imputed to them, and I fear that I was invited to the interview by the Soubah under the chance of my being prevailed upon to seize and summarily punish, under his bare accusation (or that of his Mookhee), all the other men named in the list, and that he had in reality no intention of delivering up his prisoners. These four unfortunates, if they have not been already put to death, are, I fear, doomed. I do not believe the Soubah ever dreamt of giving them up, as he never alludes to them now, although, in every letter I have written to him, I have demanded them of him, and assured him of my desire to have them punished severely in the event of their guilt being established. I have done all I could in the way of persuasion without avail. I have exhausted every effort to induce the Soubah to listen to reason; but I find that he is not a whit better than his predecessors, and, under the evil influence of his Mookhee, I am led to expect that he will prove a very troublesome neighbour. I do not fear that he will attempt to invade our territory, but I fear cattle and elephant stealing and dacoities will increase on our side of the border. I await further instructions."

22. At the very time that these outrages were almost daily being committed on the frontier, an officer of some rank was deputed by the Deb Raja to receive the rent of the Assam Dooras. This man, who had on several occasions been sent to Gowhatty by the Bootanese without any satisfactory result, was the bearer of letters saying that the 10,000 rupees paid as composition money was insufficient to cover the cost of the religious ceremonies to which it was devoted, and a further sum of 2,000 or 3,000 rupees was therefore asked for; the Deb added, "our people have never given you such troubles as I hear the Abors and other Hill tribes have given, and for the future peaceful conduct of our men, if you want an agreement from us, the Durpun Raja, being my deputy, shall execute that business for me." The Bootanese Envoy had the effrontery to declare that our complaints had never reached the Deb and Dhurma Rajas, but that what went on on the frontiers was concealed from the Rajas, though he does not appear to have gone so far as to declare the replies sent by the Rajas to be forgeries. The agent communicated to him the intention of Government to depute an Envoy to Bootan, and "he seemed to like the idea, and volunteered to make the mission comfortable if they came; that he would come and meet them, bringing all sorts of provisions with him, and treat them as well as we had treated him." The agent, having been directed to report what arrangements would be necessary for the proposed mission, suggested that the intension of Government should be formally announced, that it should be ready to leave Assam by the 15th of November, and that the escort should consist of 30 to 60 men.

Deputation of
Bootan officers to
Gowhatty.

23. In July 1862 a messenger, named Mokundo Sing, was despatched from Assam to the Court of the Rajas of Bootan, with letters announcing the intention of the Governor General to send an Envoy "to confer with them regarding such matters as require explanation and settlement" between the Government of India and themselves, asking them to say by what route the mission should enter the country, and requesting them to issue the necessary orders for the proper reception of the Envoy on his way to their Court, and to depute officers of proper rank to accompany him and see that his wants were attended to. On the 11th October 1862 the Lieutenant Governor, in consequence of the delay in the return of the messenger, suggested to the Government of India that "the mission should be organised on a scale calculated to impress the Court with the importance which the British Government attaches to the establishment of clear and decisive relations with the Government of Bootan, and the adoption of some means whereby the present unsatisfactory state of affairs on the frontier may be put a stop to, and that the mutual fondition of persons charged with the commission of heinous crimes may be secured." "The mission should, in the Lieutenant Governor's opinion, proceed from Darjeeling across the Teesta into Bootan, and march direct by the best and shortest route to Tasisaidon, or to Panukka, if the Court has not left its winter quarters by the time that the mission arrives there. There are political considerations which make this route preferable to the one followed by either Turner or Pemberton, and the mission, by organising its own means of transport on the Hills, would be entirely independent of the Bootanese

Messenger dis-
patched to the
Durbar.

o Letter No. 46, dated 24 March 1862, paragraph 3.

† Letter No. 2104, dated 11 October 1862, paragraphs 6 and 7.

vernment that it must not be surprised if, on learning the failure of its mission to obtain reasonable satisfaction, the British Government decide that Ambaree Fallacottah shall be permanently annexed to the British dominions, and that in the event of future aggressions, either within British territories or the territories of the Rajas of Sikhim and Cooch Behar, the British Government will adopt such measures as under the circumstances may be deemed necessary for the protection of its own subjects and territory, and the subjects and territory of its subordinate allies. In such event also, you will decline to accept any return presents which the Bootan Government may offer for the acceptance of his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General."

25. On the 10th September letters were addressed by the Lieutenant Governor to the Deb and Dhurma Rajas respectively, announcing the intention of the Governor General to send an Envoy to their Court after the close of the rainy season, with letters and presents from the Governor General, for the purpose of adjusting certain matters in dispute between the two Governments, and of communicating to their Highnesses the sincere wish of the Government of India to maintain friendship between the two Governments. The Rajas were requested to depute some officer of high rank to meet the mission on the banks of the Teesta, and to conduct them to their presence.

Durbar told of the intended dispatch of the mission.

PART II.

26. In the beginning of November, I arrived at Darjeeling and commenced to organize the establishment and carriage of the mission. No reply having been received from the Deb and Dhurma Rajas, I again addressed them on the 10th of November, intimating my appointment and announcing my arrival at Darjeeling, and requesting that the Subah of Darlingeote might be directed to meet me on the frontier, or be directed to send suitable persons to do so, and that he might also be ordered to have some coolies ready to carry on the baggage of the camp. I added that if they did not do this I should be compelled to report to my Government that no arrangements had been made, and that their neglect would be considered a breach of friendship. Shortly after dispatching this letter it came to my knowledge that, in point of fact, there was then no recognised Government in Bootan. The whole country was in a state of anarchy and confusion owing to a rebellion which had broken out some months previously. The Governor of the castle of Poonakh, the winter residence of the Government, had obtained from the Deb Raja the promise that if he assisted him in an impending crisis he should be rewarded by the appointment of his brother to the office of Jungpen, or Governor, of the Fort of Angdu Forung; a much coveted situation. The crisis having been tided over, the Deb forgot his promise and appointed a follower of his own to the office. This gave the Jungpen of Poonakh great offence, and when the Court, in the usual course, went to the Poonakh Castle for the summer, the Governor admitted all the Lama's and the Deb's retinue, but closed the gates against the Deb himself. The Jungpen put forward some nominee of his own to the office of Deb; the cause of the deposed Deb was taken up by the Paro Penlow, or Governor of West Bootan, and the rebels were compelled to call in the Tongso Penlow, or Governor of East Bootan, to their assistance. The ex-Deb fled to Tassijung, the winter palace of the Court, where he was besieged by the Tongso Penlow, and all the Amla except the Paro Penlow and a few of his subordinate chiefs. The besiegers managed to cut off the supply of water from the fort, and hit upon the happy expedient of obtaining all the money of the besieged by allowing them to take water unmolested three times a week on payment of a sum of 300 rupees on each occasion. The funds of the garrison were soon exhausted, and they were compelled by thirst to surrender; the Deb was allowed to retire into obscurity in the monastery of Sintokn, where we still found him on passing that place. Whilst this rebellion was raging at head-quarters a lesser fight was going on in the immediate neighbourhood of our frontier. The Jungpen or Subah of Darlingeote had originally been a follower of one of the Amla who was a leading character in the rebellion, but officially he was subordinate to the Paro Penlow; the latter officer was determined to supersede his disloyal subordinate, and sent another official to take his place. The Jungpen refused to obey the order, or surrender the fort. A force was sent to compel him, and the fort was besieged for several months, but without success, and the besiegers only withdrew on our intention to visit Darlingeote becoming known. I reported these complications to Government in my letter of the 10th November, and expressed apprehension lest they should impede the progress of the mission. I at the same time expressed my willingness to proceed, provided that the nominal head of the Government was disposed to receive me. The Jungpen of Darlingeote sent me several messengers on different occasions, assuring me that the delay of the Bootan Government to make arrangements for my reception, or to reply to the letters of the Governor General, was attributable simply to the disorganised state of the country, and not to any unwillingness to receive a representative of the British Government; he entreated me to remain patiently for a reply, and assured me that he would give me every assistance in his power. Towards the end of November he sent to say that he wished to have an interview with Cheboo Lama on the frontier, and explain to him exactly how matters stood at the Durbar. I sent the Lama to meet him at the Teesta, and they had a conference which lasted some days. He evidently wished us to enter into negotiations with him; he was very friendly, asked me to delay my advance for a short time longer, in hopes that an answer would be received from the Durbar, but at the same time hinted that if the reply did not come

Arrive at Darjeeling.

Darlingeote Jungpen visits Cheboo Lama.

soon he would, if he received a present, aid us in entering the country; even if by so doing he should incur the displeasure of his Government, and would answer for it that so long as we were in his jurisdiction we should not be molested. On my position being reported to the Government of India, I was informed that the Governor General was of opinion that as the rebellion had been successful, and a substantive Government had apparently been re-established, and, as the Soubah of Darlingcote had promised to assist us, there was no reason why our advance should be any longer postponed, and it appeared to Government that the new Deb Raja might be desirous of cultivating a good understanding with the British Government in order to strengthen himself in his position. On the receipt of these orders I made immediate preparations to advance, and wrote to the Darlingcote Soubah that I was about to start, and requested him to send men to meet me at the Teesta.

Start from Darjeeling.

27. I had some difficulty in collecting coolies, as without more direct encouragement from the Bootanese they were very unwilling to venture into Bootan, the people of which country are looked upon with hatred by all the other residents in these hills, as being a cruel and treacherous race. By the assistance of Cheboo Lama, the Dewan of Sikhim, who had been selected to accompany us, we managed to collect coolies and to start them off to the frontier on the 1st of January. On the 4th we left Darjeeling and overtook the camp just as they arrived at the Teesta, 30 miles from Darjeeling, and here our troubles commenced, for the coolies were afraid to venture across the frontier, and left us in considerable numbers. The Lama, however, managed to procure us assistance from his own ryots. We had much difficulty in crossing the river, which is very deep and rapid, and full of enormous boulders; we had to cross the coolies and baggage over in rafts, which were constructed according to the usual plan of the country, a series of triangular platforms of bamboos being placed one above the other: the apex of the triangle is kept up-stream, and the raft is pulled backwards and forwards by gangs of men, the common cane being used instead of rope. The work of crossing was difficult and very tedious; the river was nearly 90 yards wide, and runs at a rate of about 10 miles an hour; the elevation at the ferry is 1,122 feet above the level of the sea. The whole of the camp was not across till the 7th; we went up from the Teesta on the 9th, by a gradual slope, through some cultivated villages to Kalimpoong, height 3,733 feet. We were obliged to halt one day here, to muster the coolies and re-arrange the baggage, which had got into confusion in consequence of frequent desertions. Whilst here we visited a number of villages. The inhabitants seemed delighted to see us, and made us presents of eggs, fowls, oranges, and vegetables. This part of the country is very fairly cultivated, and has a number of inhabitants; it is so close to our frontier that the villages set their chiefs at defiance, and are the only people under the Bootan Government who are able to carry on any sort of trade. They were vehement in their abuse of their own Government, and loud in their praise of our administration in Darjeeling; their only wish seemed to be that they should come under our rule. Nearly every household had some members resident in our territory. We visited a monastery in the neighbourhood. The Lamas were absent, but we were shown over it by two nuns, who pointed with pride to an English vessel which was placed on the altar as a receptacle for holy water, but which in other countries is used for a very different purpose. There were fine orange groves in the neighbourhood of the monastery, but the people dared not sell the oranges for fear of the Lamas, for whom they had been reserved. At the unaccustomed sight of money, however, their fear of the priests vanished, and they not only sold, but afterwards gave us large quantities of oranges. We were met here by a very surly old official, the ex-Nieboo or Darogah of Dumsong—for here, as everywhere else, there were two officers in the appointment, one in power and one out of power. The Nieboo was very uncommunicative; he at first requested us not to move into the country, but ultimately he gave us guides to show us the road to Darlingcote. He had evidently received no instructions as to the course he was to adopt towards us, and had not even heard of our intention to enter the country until we had arrived in the neighbourhood of his own villages. He was equally afraid of offending us and his own superiors. On the 9th we marched to Paigong, a long march. The road was tolerably level, though narrow. A great number of coolies deserted us on the road, throwing down their loads. We had to store a quantity of baggage in the village, and went on only a few miles the next day, by a good road, to Paiengong. Amongst the baggage left behind was a box of arsenical soap. This was never sent after us; the authorities denied that it could have been stolen; but, on our return, it was good-humouredly admitted that the box had been carried off, the soap was taken to be some particular food for horses, that cattle had been fed on it, and seven had died. We went off the road a few miles, to visit the little fort of Dumsong. The fort is a small quadrangular building, hollow in the centre, built of stones and mud, situated on a bluff jutting down into the Valley of the Teesta, between Sikhim and Bootan. The view from this place was magnificent; the snows of the Choolah, Nitai, and Yaklah Passes were all quite close; on three sides of us were the different snowy ranges of Bootan, Sikhim, and Nepal. We could see, within a space of 16 miles, the four countries of Thibet, Sikhim, Bootan, and British Sikhim. The view was very extended; Darjeeling was plainly visible, and below was the beautiful and fertile Valley of Rhinok, in Sikhim. We could see for many miles the road from the Thibet Passes to the Rungeet River, on the Darjeeling frontier, the route followed by the Thibetan traders who annually visit Darjeeling. The land around Dumsong is a gentle slope, and just behind the fort is a flat spur. The elevation of Dumsong is probably about 5,000 feet.

Cross Teesta.

The place would make a magnificent sanatorium. We asked the officer in charge of the fort, a dirty-looking man, little better than a coolie, to allow us to look inside the fort. He insolently refused, and closed all the doors. To the south-west of the fort was a little outpost. On visiting it, we found it surrounded in every direction with sharp spikes formed of the male fern: these are stuck into the ground in time of war, and are supposed to be effective against night attacks. The fort was, as usual in Bootan, completely commanded by its own outposts. On the 11th we marched to the top of the mountain of Labah, in height 6,620 feet, distance 11 miles. There was a great scarcity of water on the road, and even at the encamping ground. The only place worthy of note that we passed was the monastery of Bhissheshoo, which was perched up on the top of the most westerly spur of Labah. From Labah we the next day descended a very steep and difficult road to one of the branches of the River Duclah, where we were met by ponies, mules, and musicians, sent by the Jungpen of Darlingeote. Out of compliment to the Jungpen, and in accordance with the custom of the country, some of the gentlemen of the Mission mounted the animals sent for us, and had a very uncomfortable ride, on high Tartar saddles, on very fidgetty and vicious mules. We were preceded by the musicians, who continued to play a most monotonous and noisy tune, till we arrived at our encamping ground at Ambiok, a plain about 2,922 feet high, immediately below the Fort of Darling. The instruments in use were silver flageolets and brass cymbals. The Jungpen kept up a constant fire of matchlocks from the fort throughout the day. After leaving the vicinity of our own frontier, we saw no trace of a village, and for two days before reaching Darling we had not seen a single house, with the exception of a monastery. At Darling there were, with the exception of the fort, only some six or seven little huts, and it was clear that we could not look for supplies from the villages; indeed, if there had been villages able to supply us, we should have been in equal difficulty, for they were all warned by the Jungpen that every man found selling us provisions was to be fined. The object of this order was to preserve the Jungpen's trade, monopoly. It is his practice, and that of all the frontier officials, to prohibit any trade with the plains; they themselves either buy rice very cheaply, or extort it from their tenants in the Doonars, and store and sell it out at exorbitant price to their followers and ryots, and to people in the interior of the country.

Arrival at Darling.

The Jungpen had promised to store supplies for my camp, to await my arrival at Darling. On my sending a requisition for rice for the coolies, he sent me some, insisting upon being paid beforehand seven rupees per maund, though, to my knowledge, the price of rice at the place whence he draws his supplies was only 8 to 10 annas per maund, and all his supplies were delivered free at his fort by his unfortunate Mechi ryots, who have to keep up large herds of pack cattle for this sole duty. On the 14th of January the Jungpen came to see me. He was accompanied by a large and disorderly following: standard-bearers carrying a flat piece of wood like a broad oar, printed with inscriptions; musicians, a number of led ponies and mules, sepoy with matchlocks and knives, probably about 200 men in all. As they approached our camp, the whole party halted every 20 yards, and gave loud shouts, apparently in imitation of a pack of jackals. Whilst the screaming was going on, the Jungpen put down his head and shook himself in his saddle. The same practice was observed on other occasions, but I could obtain no explanation of it, except that it was an old custom. The same cry is used in advancing to fight. The Jungpen, on arriving at my tent, was seized by the legs by some of his followers, and, after being twirled round in the air twice, was carried to the tent, as it was thought below his dignity to walk. The ceremony was, however, very far from dignified, for the Jungpen attempted to get down, and was brought to my tent, kicking violently and abusing his men; he was a fat, uncouth, boorish, ignorant man; he assumed airs of great dignity for a time, but was unable to resist asking for some brandy; on receiving this he became very talkative; his chief topic, however, was the quantity of spirits he could drink; he repeatedly called for more brandy; and, finding that it was taking effect upon him, I gave him leave to go; nothing, however, would induce him to leave; he staid for four or five hours, and at length was taken away forcibly by his servants, who saw that I was annoyed; but even then he could not be persuaded to return to the fort, but went to the tent of Cheboo Lama, and sat there drinking; later in the day he left the camp, but, whilst going through it he saw some of our coolies, who, after receiving large advances of pay had deserted us and had been brought back, being flogged; he insisted upon their being released. Captain Lance and Dr. Simpson, who were present, said they could not do so without my orders; he then half drew his knife and rushed into the ring with his followers, threatening to cut down the Commissariat serjeant who was in attendance, and behaving with great violence. The men of the escort ran to their arms, and fell in, and the bullying and violence of the Jungpen and his followers was immediately changed to abject fear. Seeing me approaching, he ran to meet me trembling with fear, and begged for forgiveness. I ordered him out of camp, and the whole party ran off to the fort in a most undignified manner. I declined to receive any further visits from him until he sent me a written apology for his conduct, and this he did the next day. Finding that it would be impossible to obtain supplies for our large camp from the villages, I sent Captain Austen down to Julpigooree to buy rice, and to examine the road between that place and Darlingeote; the distance is about 40 to 50 miles. The road is excellent; there is a gentle slope the whole way from Darling to Domohoni, a small stockade opposite Julpigooree; heavily laden bullocks and elephants pass backwards and forwards every day, and till within three miles of Darling the road is as good as any in the plains. The country through which it passes is a rich, black, vegetable mould, at present covered, as regards the higher portion of it, with very

Interview with Jungpen.

The Mechis of the
Dooras.

fine forest trees, and on the lower portion with long grass. It is very sparsely inhabited, but there are some large Mechi villages near our frontier. Under any other government the whole tract would be one vast rice field, for it is not unhealthy like our Terai, and the surplus population of Cooch Behar and Rungpore would readily migrate into this rich tract. It abounds with herds of elephants and with rhinoceros, but tigers seem to be rare; at least they do not interfere much with the people, who are constantly passing to and fro on the road with pack cattle. I, on one occasion, went some 16 miles down the road; we met a number of Mechis and other plainmen on the road who complained bitterly of the oppressions of the Booteahs, for whom they evidently entertained feelings of deep hatred. They were kept constantly employed in carrying up rice to the fort, and received no sort of remuneration for their services; they are absolutely nothing better than slaves to the Bootanese, and their only hope appeared to be that we might be goaded by the misconduct of their rulers to annex their villages to British territory. The Mechis are a quiet, inoffensive, weak race; they are precisely the same class as the men inhabiting our own Terai; like them they appear to enjoy perfect immunity from the ill effects of malarial fever. They are, however, a finer and less sickly and sallow-looking set than the Mechis of the Darjeeling Terai, probably because the Bootan Terai is more healthy and drier than ours. They welcomed us to their villages with unmistakable delight, and seemed to take it for granted that having once heard their grievances we should immediately take them under our protection. They seemed to be good cultivators; cotton was one of their principal crops, but the description of cotton was the poorest I ever saw; it had scarcely any staple, and it is difficult to understand how they ever separated the fibre from the seed. I imagine that finer soil for the production of cotton does not exist in India. The Mechis seem to change their cultivation constantly, as would naturally be the case with so much virgin land at their disposal. They do not cultivate more than is necessary to supply their own wants and to enable them to comply with the demands of their rulers, for any surplus which they produced would merely form an additional temptation to plunder on the part of their Booteah task-masters. They know they can never be rich nor ever improve their position, and they do not therefore attempt it. With magnificent timber all around them, with rivers running direct down to the plains, with a full knowledge that a certain market for their timber is to be found where these rivers join the Teesta and Berhampooter on our frontier, they dare not even cut a single tree for sale.

28. It was impossible to avoid contrasting the present state of this portion of the country with what it would be under our rule. Our camp at Ambik was a perfectly level plain; on two sides of it were high mountains with fine sloping sides, and a walk of two or three hours would take one up to an elevation of 6,000 and 7,000 feet. On one side was a precipitous ascent of 1,000 feet to the fort, which jutted out on a ridge running down towards the plain. On either side of the table-land were two branches of the River Durlah. Running to the plains was a natural road which might be made available for carts from the plains at a cost of probably not more than 10,000 rupees. In the immediate neighbourhood was a magnificent plain of 30 miles broad and 150 miles long, of the very finest soil, and intersected by a series of rivers running down into the Teesta and Berhampooter. All this was within a few miles of the district which, after Chota Nagpore, is the best labour market in Bengal, and from which the people would have flocked into Bootan if they dared. The place was so situated in regard to the hills and the plains that it seemed a sort of natural exchange for the trade of Thibet with that of Bengal; yet, with all these advantages, not a village was to be seen within 16 miles of the place: where under a good government, there would have been a large standing bazar; where there would have been cotton fields, and tea fields, and timber depôts, and countless acres of rice; not a human habitation was to be seen; there was not one single cultivated acre of land within sight of Darling. The place in which our camp was situated had once, apparently, been a rich well-kept garden; it contained several mangoe, jack, and other imported trees, and the remains of stone walls were visible in all directions. I believe, however, that the garden existed only many years ago when Darlingcote belonged to the Sikhimese.

I received a letter from the Deb Raja after I had been a few days at Darling; it was as usual evasive and undecided. I was simply told that I should tell the Jungpen of Darling what I had come for, and that he would then arrange for my seeing the Deb. I explained fully to the Jungpen what the object of our Government was; he was exceedingly friendly in his professions, and was, I think, really anxious to forward our views, for we had no complaints against him personally; and the attached estate of Fallacottah being under his charge, he had everything to gain and nothing to lose by the acceptance of the terms offered by the Governor General. He had, moreover, lived for some years on the frontier, and knew our power to enforce our terms if they were not complied with in a friendly spirit; at the same time, he was averse to my going on until he had distinct orders to send me on, and the Deb Raja's letter was evidently written under the impression that I was still within British territory. I wrote, in reply to the Deb, stating very clearly our claims against his Government, and requesting a positive and definite reply as to whether he would receive me or not. I explained that our demands would have to be enforced in some other way if he did not consent to discuss them amicably, that I should proceed as soon as I could arrange to do so, but that if he did not wish to receive me or treat with me, all he had to do was to say so in distinct terms, and that I would then at once return and report to the Governor General. The Darlingcote Jungpen complained much of his government; he proved to me that he had written letter after letter entreating them to send him orders as to my reception and treatment; and that they had only

only replied in evasive terms, the object of which was to throw all blame on him for what might occur, either in the event of our going back or coming on. They told him that the Government did not understand the object of the Governor General, and that as it was evidently some complaint against him, he must settle the matter and see that I was not offended by anything that might be said or done. It was impossible for me to move on without the help of the Darlingcote authorities, for the Nepaulese and Sikhim coolies, seeing the very questionable manner in which we were received, had run away in great numbers, and we had not enough left to carry on even our necessary baggage, though reduced to the smallest limits, and in addition to this we had now to carry on rice for the coolies themselves. I had built a large godown at Amblok, and intended to leave a considerable store of rice there, to be sent on to us from time to time, but still each cooly required for the march nearly a maund of rice, or another cooly's load. My only hope was in obtaining people of the country, who could feed themselves at their own villages, and could carry some extra rice for our own men. The Jungpen made the greatest difficulty about procuring these men, and certainly he had been placed by his own Government in an awkward position.

Captain Austen having purchased a sufficient stock of rice, and having dispatched the greater portion of it, I told the Jungpen that he must now make up his mind either to help me on or bear the responsibility of my turning back. He then promised to help me in going on, but at the same time he really did nothing to assist me. His immediate superior is the Paro Penlow, and against his authority the Jungpen was in revolt; he said that as regarded the Durbar he felt less hesitation, but he did not feel at all sure what the Penlow might do; he would possibly think that we had been invited into the country by the Jungpen to aid him, and would in consequence offer us violence, as he cared little for the Durbar or any of the other Amla. I agreed to risk the Penlow's opposition, provided the Jungpen would give me the assistance I required, would undertake to take charge of my stores, and of the men, tents and baggage I left behind, and would keep open our communication with the plains. I promised to pay him for his assistance, and he at length consented. On the 26th the Jungpen called on me, and promised to make over to me two elephants and four mahouts carried off from British territory by one of his subordinates when temporarily acting as Katmah or Darogah of Moinagooree. The Jungpen's real object was clearly to keep me at Darlingcote; he would not hear of my returning, but with the usual Booteah indifference to delay he hoped to induce me to remain at Darling for a month or two corresponding with the Durbar, and he then apparently hoped that negotiations would be made with him and not with the Durbar. The promised coolies never appeared until I actually made preparations to return to Darjeeling, and they were then produced. I was obliged to leave all our tents, except some small pals, and most of our baggage and stores, in the depôt at Darling, for it was impossible to obtain coolies enough to carry them all on, and also to carry food for themselves. I was also compelled to leave nearly half my escort behind here for want of carriage; I took on fifty Sikhs, and a few sappers, leaving the rest of the sappers at Darling under the Soubadar. On the 29th Captain Austen returned, and we moved on. On passing the fort I called on the Jungpen; his manner was very different to what it had been when we first arrived; he entirely dropped his insolent assumption of superiority and his coarse swaggering manner; he stood up and refused to sit in my presence when invited to do so, brought refreshments, and waited on us himself, and behaved generally in a respectful and civil way. We looked over the fort, and were taken into a little Bhuddist temple adjoining the Jungpen's residence, in which a number of Lamas were chanting prayers for our safe journey.

Leave Darling.

29. The fort is a miserable building; it consists of a large wall built of mud and stones; it has one large gateway to the north-east, in which the Jungpen resides; inside the wall are a number of houses and a garden; one house is assigned to the ryots of the Doorars when they come up with their tribute, another is a monastery; there was a barrack, stables, store-houses, and a residence for the women. The Jungpen had two wives; one of them, with her child, he had taken over with the other furniture and equipments of the fort from his predecessor in office, now one of the chief Amla of the Durbar. The practice of making over their wives to their subordinates seems to be very common; indeed there is hardly such a thing as marriage in the country. A man takes a woman and keeps her as long as he likes, and when they tire of one another she either transfers herself or he transfers her to a dependent. In theory, celibacy is supposed to be observed by all the officials in Bootan, the origin of the rule being that formerly only Lamas were eligible for office. In the large forts the wives of the officials are not recognized; they live in buildings at the gateways or outside the walls; even at Darling the Jungpen's wives were not allowed to remain under the same roof with him, or to eat with him. The consequence of this state of things is that the women of Bootan have sunk to even a more degraded social position than the women of the rest of India; they are treated like servants, and live entirely with the lowest menials of the forts, and are pushed, hustled and abused by all the followers and hangers-on of the officials. The wives of the Jungpen used to be constantly in our camp, joking and laughing with our sepoy and coolies, and begging from us, for glasses, cloth, scissors, and other articles of English manufacture. The fort of Darling is 1,600 feet higher than the plain on which we were encamped at Amblok, and is 1,000 yards distant from the spot on which our tents were placed; shells might have been thrown into it with the greatest ease, and as the roof is made of mats it would be destroyed in a few rounds. This fort was taken with great ease by Captain Jones

Darling Fort.

Jones and a few men in 1774. The people of the place however did not seem to be aware that we had ever sent a force there. The approach to the fort from Amblok is very difficult and precipitous, and could only be made under the cover of a fire from the plain, or in conjunction with an advance from some other direction. The fort is situated on a spur; it might be approached from the south by ascending the spur where the river crosses the road about three miles below Darling, but the assistance of sappers would be required. Again it might be approached from the Sukyamchoo river (Chikam on the maps); this would have to be done by detaching a party to follow the river, which branches off to the right on the road from Julpigooree about eight miles below Darling; for this a good guide would be required, as the force would have to march up the bed of a stony river and turn off through a narrow path to the fort. With the main body advancing to Amblok along the road, the detachment *viâ* Sukyamchoo could get on to the top of the spur, four miles from Darling fort, and would advance by a very fair road to within 200 yards of the fort. Once there the fort would be in their hands, or they would at all events cover the ascent of the party from Amblok. There is no water in the fort; the spring generally used is a long way from the fort to the north along the road leading to Sukyamchoo: another small spring is some way along the spur on the east of the fort. The garrison is nominally 200 men, but in point of fact they could not muster more than 70 fighting men, of whom about 30 might be armed with old matchlocks. There is not a single wall-piece in this or any other of the forts in the country. When we reached Darling a siege of three months had just been raised. The Paro Penlow having taken the side of the ex-Deb during the late rebellion, and the Darling Jungpen having taken the side of the rebels, the Penlow had superseded him. The Darling Jungpen, however, refused to make over the fort to his successor; a force was sent to compel him; several fights took place; the Jungpen retreated into his fort, and the attacking force encamped about 200 yards off, and remained there for three months, the opposing forces doing nothing more than throwing stones at one another with slings and catapults. We measured the range of the catapults, and found that it was about 100 yards; large heaps of stones showed where the stones from the respective catapults had fallen, and a more harmless kind of warfare could not well be devised. The mortality was described as having been greater than in any previous internal war, and one of the sepoys sent with us as a guide deposed to having killed 100 of the enemy with his own hand. Close examination, however, proved to us that only nine men had been killed, and this was in an ambush laid to entrap them while escorting provisions. On leaving the fort we marched along a road with a slight descent for about four miles, and then descended abruptly to the River Sukyamchoo; it is a narrow shallow river which runs round the spur on which the fort of Darling is situated; and joins the Durlah; we were compelled to halt here as no clear and healthy place was in reach. We were quite in the Terni, the elevation being only about 1,500 feet, the place was a malarious, unhealthy looking spot, and was the feeding-ground of wild elephants; and, as we had often occasion to notice, the places frequented by these animals have a smell about them which is almost intolerable. The next day we marched on through heavy forests, crossed a large river, the Nurchoo, and encamped on the Mochoo, about 12 miles from Sukyamchoo. Not a sign of a human habitation was seen the whole day. The Mochoo is a small river abounding with fish; its banks apparently swarmed with wild animals of every sort. Our next march was through very fine, dry, clear forest; the soil was rich, high and well drained, and being well ventilated our march was less oppressive than our previous ones had been. We had to cross a deep, swift river before reaching our halting-place at Sipchoo. We were obliged to make a bridge, which took us some hours; the bed of the river was of considerable width, and in the rains it must be quite impassable. Sipchoo was the residence of a Jungpen, but all the inhabitants having fled on account of that official's oppression and cruelty, the place is now in charge of an officer of lower rank, a Nieboo, who lives during the winter at Sipchoo and during the summer at Jonksa, about six miles distant. We were told that there was a large fort here; we had to go up a very steep ascent of about 500 yards from the river, and were then met by Booteah officials who entreated us not to encamp within a mile of the fort, as it was full of soldiers, who might under the influence of drink come out and attack us, and it was not the wish of the official in charge that we should suffer any harm. These messengers were exceedingly insolent, and, as was usually the case with all Booteah officials, perfectly intoxicated. Having by this time acquired sufficient experience of the character of the people to warrant our coming to the conclusion that there was not a word of truth in the statement of these men, we insisted upon going forward with four sepoys, and judging for ourselves where we should encamp. On arriving at the place we found that the fort and the soldiers were equally imaginary. There were two grass huts and three or four cattle sheds, some few men and a few women, and this constituted the whole garrison and town of Sipchoo. The Booteahs were not in the least embarrassed at their falsehood being detected, treated the whole matter as a joke, and declared that the only object of their attempt at deceit was to give us a good encamping ground in the neighbourhood of the river. One of the first persons who came forward to greet us was Mimba Kazec. This man's history is a curious one: he was for many years in our service, and was on receipt of—for a Booteah—a large salary as translator of the Darjeeling Court. He was Dr. Campbell's right-hand man for years, was with that gentleman and Dr. Hooker when they were imprisoned by the Sikhim Rajah in 1851, and is specially mentioned under the name of Nimbo in Dr. Hooker's Journal (page 233) as having "broken away from captivity and found his way into

Reach Sipchoo.

(No. 77.):

The Governor General of India, in Council, to Sir *Charles Wood*.Foreign Department (Political), Simla,
19 September 1864.

Sir,

WE have the honour to forward for the information of Her Majesty's Government, copy of a letter from Captain Godwin Austen, recently employed on deputation with the mission to Bootan, enclosing a Survey Report, which is to form an accompaniment to his map of Western Bootan, with notes on the government, religion, &c. of the Booteahs.

2. A copy of the communication from the Surveyor General of India, submitting Captain Austen's letter, also accompanies this despatch.

We have, &c.
(signed) *J. Lawrence,*
H. Rose,
R. Napier,
H. S. Maime,
C. E. Trevelyan,
W. Grey,
G. N. Taylor.

From the Surveyor General of India, to the Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department, with the Governor General, Simla (No. 68); dated Calcutta, 23 July 1864.

*No 22, dated
15th July 1863.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of Government, copy of a letter, as per margin,* from Captain H. H. Godwin Austen, Surveyor in the Topographical Branch of the Survey Department, and recently on deputation with the mission to Bootan, together with a Survey Report, in original, drawn up by that officer to accompany his map of Western Bootan, with notes on the government, religion, &c., of the Booteahs.

2. The map referred to in Captain Austen's letter above mentioned, will shortly follow this despatch. A copy of it is at present in course of preparation for the purpose of photography, as the original is not susceptible of being thus copied. The map shall be forwarded at the earliest practicable moment.

From Captain *H. H. Godwin Austen*, Surveyor, Topographical Survey, Mussoorie, to Lieutenant Colonel *H. L. Thullier*, Surveyor General of India (No. 22); dated 15 July 1864:

Vide Letter, No. 64,
from Secretary to
Government of
Bengal, dated the
17th June 1864.

I HAVE the honour to forward the plane table section of Western Bootan, surveyed by me during the march of the mission into that country last cold season.

The map is based on the trigonometrical stations in the neighbourhood of Darjeeling, and those on the snowy range to the north of Sikkim.

As far as Labor, above Dalingkote, it is as correct as the number of trigonometrical points around can make it, but thence to Har is all reconnoissance, correct in itself, but wrong in latitude and longitude.

The Paro Valley is in position very fairly determined by rays from Chumula Rhi, secondary peak; its latitude has to be slightly corrected by addition of perhaps 15 minutes.

From Paro to Punakha, the work is based on the peaks around Paro, and bearings taken on the Plane Table, the distances being put in by eye.

I have also the honour to forward forms of routes in the country, those in direction of Lhasa having been obtained from native information.

SURVEY REPORT to accompany Map of Western Bootan, or that portion traversed by the Mission under the Honourable *Ashley Eden* in 1864, by Captain *H. H. Godwin Austen*, F. R. C. S., Surveyor, Topographical Survey of India, late Assistant to Envoy, Bootan Mission; dated Mussoorie, June 1864.

HAVING received at Sealkote, on return from Ladak, in November 1863, orders from the Government of India to join the Bhootan Mission, then about to leave Darjeeling, I proceeded without delay to Dohra Dhoon where, at the head office of the Superintendent Great Trigonometrical Survey, I collected all the geographical information known of the country we were about to visit, and prepared large plane tables of the pattern in use with Indian

Indian surveys, together with all the requisites required for carrying on a survey with such aid: these last are few, and I have found the plane table by far the best aid in sketching in the features of a hill-country. On arrival at Darjeeling, upon these plane tables were projected graticules of the scale of four miles to an inch, which I considered quite large enough for a survey of a mountainous country, and a scale that shows all that is required for ordinary purposes.

I was enabled on the above scale to bring into one table an area of nearly two degrees of longitude and one and one-third latitude, and thus to plot in all the trigonometrical stations around Darjeeling and the fixed snowy peaks of the Himalaya range to the north, including the well-known mountain of Kanchinjunga and Chumula Rhi, this last lying to the northward of our destination: Darjeeling Hill Station and Senehal Hill Station were the points on which I based my work, tested compasses, and boiling point thermometers. From Darjeeling and Senehal Stations, several well marked hills were fixed towards the east in Bootan territory, and I commenced sketching in the country from these two points, fixing others on the plane table by intersection of rays from Great Trigonometrical Survey Stations. I afterwards received at Dalingkote, from Lieutenant Colonel Thuillier, Surveyor General of India, a very good sextant for taking altitude observations. A subtense instrument had been sent up to Darjeeling before my arrival. The nature of the country would have rendered it all but useless, from the very short rays that can be taken in the winding paths through such dense forest: this useful instrument for route surveying in an open country I therefore left behind. Further on, near Paro and Poonakha, where the country was adapted to its use, the suspicion of the people would soon have been excited; even the plane table could not be set up in the presence of the people, and they expressed a decided objection to any drawings being taken of the country. When on the march, I always managed to get away off the road in the higher ground, set up the plane table, and take rays to every object around without being seen, and in this manner fix peaks and sketch the country for sometimes 25 miles. As a proof of the dislike of the people to any drawings being taken, Dr. Simpson, photographing a short distance from camp at Paro, received a peremptory message to be off.

"Rhi" means mountain in Tibetan.

After crossing the Teesta below Pushok on the Darjeeling side, the country of the Durm Rajah is entered, and a steep ascent from 1,120 feet to 3,800 or 2,680 feet through forest and small scattered patches of cultivation, brought one to the top of the ridge which, running for many miles east and west, was the line we kept, either close under and finally upon the crest of, as far as longitude $88^{\circ} 42'$. The weather was fine and beautifully clear, the snowy peaks were daily visible, and the sketch of the country, so far, is more correct than any other portion of the map.

Teesta River.

From Kalingspoong to Paiongoing the country to the south is bounded by a forest-clad ridge, the highest points of which are about 6,800 feet, and give out spurs and streams, running down to the Kuliclu river, a small tributary of the Teesta. The spurs here have, at about 2,500 feet above the main valley, fine broad ridges, and the slope of their sides is by no means steep, many hamlets and new clearings are seen, and the jungle and forest were being burnt away on every side to form the sites of new fields and new dwellings.

Bootan beyond the Teesta.

Just beyond Kalingspoong, the monastery of Yangtza Goupa is passed, surrounded with tall poles adorned with narrow white stripes of cloth printed in Tibetan characters, being commonly the six syllabled mantra, Om ma ni pad omi hum, repeated over and over again. The building has two storeys, the upper alone being used as an idol-room; this we saw, but it was poorly furnished. The road thence to Paiongoing was good, with only a few little descents and ascents into ravines from the ridge on the left. Paiongoing consists of some five or six scattered houses built of bamboo and thatel, the floors raised from three to four feet above the ground. From this village an ascent of about 1,600 feet, very gradual at first, takes one up to the top of the main ridge, and on the summit of the highest point stands the small monastery of Rhishi sum. The view from here ranges over an immense area down into the valley of the Ring po: the Sikkim mountains beyond spurs from the high range running north from Giepmochi. Nearer the village of Rhenokh covers a broad spur from the Rhishi range; this formerly, a portion of Bootan, was ceded to Sikkim several years ago for some aid rendered to the former State—the population are Booteahs; facing Rhenokh to the west and across the Rhishi chu stands the fort of Dumsong, a large oblong block of stone walls, but of no great thickness; the approaches along the ridge on either flank are protected by small out-works of circular shape; the whole position is a very strong one, as the mountains on the west, though commanding it, do so from a long distance, and are covered with dense forest almost inaccessible. About half way up the ascent to Rhishi sum Goupa a road branches off to Dumsong along the ridge, another and the most direct from the Darjeeling side leads away up the hill from Paiongoing.

"Goupa" means a monastery.

Dumsong Fort.

The road from Rhishi Goupa eastwards was level and very good, keeping close to the ridge, dense forests, principally of oak, magnolia, rhododendron, &c., rose on either hand, so that nothing could be seen; from the branches of these trees hung long ragged mosses, while the trees grow so close they choked each other, and, as a rule, were small-stemmed, and with scraggy gnarled branches. The principal underwood was a small species of bamboo (ringall?) which grew in dense impenetrable masses. After passing the monastery, the only place where water is procurable in sufficient quantity is at Labor, a few yards to the right of the open glade of that name in the forest; just under Rhishi Goupa a little water is found below the road, but only enough at this season of the year for a small party of men. It was very difficult to survey anything from this wooded ridge; it was frequently necessary to set the plane table in a different spot for every ray taken from

from neighbouring stations or distant peaks, and these but scarcely visible through the holes and branches of the trees. At Labor the Sikkim hills are left behind, never to be seen again, for the road a short distance on leaves the ridge and descends gradually to the southward, then skirting a high rounded hill to the left clothed with magnificent forest, and following the crest of this for some four miles leads down to the Daling river: this portion of the road is not so good, and in one or two places being steep and rocky it would require some little work to place it in decent order, and so prevent the detention of baggage animals.

Daling, Daling
Kote, or Dallin-
cotta.

At the point where the road first strikes the crest of this ridge there is a somewhat open spot, thence the first view of the Fort of Daling is obtained, distant about four miles in direct distance, on the opposite side of a large valley from the north, and standing a considerable height above its rivers. I had now left all fixed trigonometrical points behind; only a few rounded hills on the west remained that had been fixed by myself, and with help of which I sketched in the fort and valley of Daling, trusting to eye and long experience in judging the distance of the surrounding hills before placing them on the plane table. The Daling Kote River is easily fordable at this season of the year, and remains so until the rains, when, I should imagine, its bed of large boulders would be, at times, difficult, if not impossible to pass; a cane suspension bridge at the ford told this plainly.

From the river a narrow stony path leads slanting up the steep bank, eventually emerging out on an open nearly level space, on which stands a small collection of bamboo huts called Ambiokh, and near them are a few small patches of cultivation. Rising immediately in front is a steep spur crowned by the Fort of Daling, or, as it is called in the old maps, Dallincotta; but I never heard this used, and it is probably the name given to this place by the Bengalee population in the plains. The fort holds a most commanding site, as viewed from Ambiokh, but is backed by much higher hills all covered with the dense sombre moist, I might almost add dripping, forest of these regions. Save where varied with a few different forms of forest trees and shrubs, it is the same in appearance from the summits of the hills to the narrow rocky gorge of the streams below these are heard but seldom to be seen, the green mass of overhanging forest hides them completely.

There is sufficient room to encamp 3,000 men at Ambiokh; water is to be had in plenty from a stream which flows on the fort side of the open plateau, which in former days was entirely under cultivation. The broken walls of stone that divided the plots could still be seen, the ground falls in terraces and narrow away down the slope where stand some large trees apart from the surrounding forest, and under these the tents of the Envoy were pitched. A road leads away down the left bank of the Daling River, and is the way out of the hills to Minagoroo or Dohmohni. Having been sent to bring up supplies for the camp from Julpigoree, I had an opportunity given me of seeing and making a rough sketch of the road with prismatic compass. Before commencing an account of this route, a few words on the portion above described may not be out of place here. Should a force be sent into this portion of Bootan at any subsequent period, it should never be sent from Darjeeling and by the road above described; a far shorter line of country is from Pankabari to Bullabari, and thence to Daling through the Morang or plains at foot of hills, the whole distance and road quite good. On the fall of Daling Fort, all the country on the left bank of the Teesta River, from Kalingpoong to Dumsong, would likewise fall, and that portion could be taken possession of. Darjeeling is by no means suited for a starting point; provisions, such as flour and rice, have to be brought up from the plains with much labour and expense, both of which the mission entailed unnecessarily. The ascents and descents from Darjeeling to the Rungcet up to Pushok, and again down upon the Teesta with another steep pull up to the top of the Kalingpoong ridge, are all very fatiguing to laden coolies, while the passage of the Teesta River is a most slow and tiresome business.

◦ Including time
for cooking, &c.

Road from Daling
to Julpigoree.

The best roads into Bootan on the west side lie from Julpigoree whence are three; first to Daling; second, *via* Minagoroo, to Sipchu; third through Minagoroo to Sunchi, over the Seli La, down into the Har valley and thence to Paro: of these three routes, I am only personally acquainted with the first; this I performed in 16 hours, marching from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., or 10 hours* the first day, and six hours the second day, with well-laden coolies accompanying the party the whole distance.

For two miles and a half below Daling the road keeps the left bank of the stream and high above it; part of the distance lies over a level plateau covered with large bamboo forest; the road gradually descends from this and is stony, but still practicable for laden bullocks; arriving at the stream, this is forded to the right bank, when a low thick jungle with forest trees is entered; the road is now very good through the level portion of the valley. On the right hand the cliffs rise to some 50 feet, covered with forests, but by no means impenetrable, and the road is commanded, so that an enemy might annoy a force here were they sharp enough to take advantage of the position.

After two miles, a little stream from the right is crossed, and just beyond is a somewhat clear space called Goroodoora, used at times as a halting spot by the natives from the plains bringing up provisions for the fort. A few yards further down stream the road leaves the level of the river and ascends for some 150 feet to the level of an alluvial plateau, still covered with forest, but with very little underwood, the ground being covered with grass about as high as the knee; this continues 2½ miles further, when a steep bouldery descent takes the traveller down to the level of the river again; this is not very densely wooded, and compared to the hill side is quite open; the stream is soon reached

at a point quite clear of the hills which are seen running in a westerly direction clothed with forest to the base. The Daling River also takes the same direction, and its course can be traced for a long distance through a broad belt of high grass, forest bounding it on the southern side. For three miles the edge of the forest is kept, the road then turns into it, and at three miles further the next village of Bullabari is disclosed, built on a little clearing in the forest, and consisting of some twenty-four houses, all slightly raised off the ground; one house more substantially built than the rest is used by the Booteahs passing backwards and forwards. From this point forest is again traversed, covering the ground, which is of the level boulder formation, raised some eight feet above the drainage of the country; this is always seen spread over the lower country stretching into the plain for some distance until the alluvium of the larger rivers is reached. At five miles the ground became rougher and cut up by a few dry "nullahs," the jungle became ranker, and we came upon a small stream flowing towards the south-east; beyond this point the jungle was much more open, long broad glades of high coarse grass intersected the forest; this again closed in on all sides and became very green and rich, and we emerged suddenly out of it upon the Dhollah river, as that from Daling is here called; it was a still flowing clear stream, with banks rising only five feet above its pebbly bed; beyond this was another belt of dense forest, and then the opener kind began. The glades of high grass were of greater extent, and only a few long strips of open "sal" forest are seen; this too entirely disappears at 3½ miles from the river, and the whole country is covered with tall grass, the strips of forest only showing far off on the horizon.

For four miles further the country wears this appearance, when it suddenly changes close to Kyranti, where the edge of cultivated ground is reached, and villages with clumps of bamboo and betelnut trees are seen continuing the whole way to the Teesta; 2½ miles beyond Kyranti the road is covered by a clear nullah, with steep banks, 10 feet below the surface of plain, called the Phuljerra nullah; and just beyond the Booteah Chokee at Azaturra the Dholla is again met with, along the right bank of which the road runs for 6½ miles as far as the stockade of Domolmi, situated on the left bank of the stream close to the junction of the Dholla with the Teesta. The place is nearly square, built of upright trees planted in stockade fashion, the houses standing in the interior with thatched roofs high above the walls, so that it would be an easy matter to fire the place; it is the residence of an inferior officer under the Daling Kote Souba, called a Katma, who, with a small party of Booteahs, garrisons the place, having some Bengalees also in his service armed with spears. I here saw two elephants, having passed four others on my way down. From Domolmi the white sandy bed of the Teesta is seen, and by proceeding due west from Domolmi the ferry opposite Pahaspur is reached, and Julpigoree lies about four miles down the right bank of the Teesta. The road is very good the whole way through the plains, but in the rains must in some parts be very deep in mud.

Domolmi.

As to the value of the strip of land just traversed, a great deal of it is not worth much as it now stands, though the cultivation might be extended many miles to the northward of Kyranti, and the forest along the Dholla contains much good timber which would be of value.

These forests are of unlimited extent; further eastward the cultivated tract is more extensive, and I was informed that the portion in and around Minagoroo, and the stockade residence of a petty Souba, is very rich indeed: it is, in fact, from this tract of country that the natives of West Bootan draw the greater portion of their supplies, especially the betelnut, without which it is scarcely possible to imagine a Booteah is able to exist.

The population of the plains is entirely Bengalee, very few Booteahs living in the plains. The villages along the foot of the hills are inhabited by the Mech tribe, a race of people having a more Mongolian-type than the Bengalee, stouter and more robust; they dress somewhat differently, the women generally appearing with the head uncovered, the hair being combed back off the forehead and tied in a simple knot at the back: these people are closely connected with men of the same race living to the west of the Teesta, and I saw several men from that side in the village of Bullabari.

Population of the tract of country.

Notes on the Country between Daling and Paro.

A short way from the open ground at Ambiokh, on leaving it for the fort of Daling above, the road crosses a small stream from the hills to the north of the fort, and immediately ascends about 1,000 feet; close under the ridge the path is very steep and stony, and the jungle grows close up to it. Reaching the ridge a small ruined outwork is past on the left, and the path turning to the right runs under the south-east side of the walls of the fort, which are 100 feet above the road. The ridge slopes up at an angle of 25° from the outwork, and is bare and covered with short grass. The longer sides of the fort here meet in a very acute angle; this is the weakest point, for the angle is squared off by a wall about 15 yards long and 12 feet high, with a large wooden balcony on the top, and a wicket door on the left side: the length of the run up the slope is some 100 yards, and the angle is quite undefended, save by direct fire. On the northern face, the slope of the hillsides below the fort is quite precipitous; the whole south-east face is accessible, but slopes up considerably; and on this side is the entrance gate. The house of the Souba is immediately on the right hand side of the gate, and the floor of the upper story is on a level with the top of the walls of the fort; this upper story and roof

Fort of Daling.

are entirely of wood, and in a number of these pent-roofed buildings rise above the walls. The Daling-Souba has a stand of some 40 muskets and a few wall-pieces.

The best road to the fort is from the Tea-kan-chu side, and can be reached, I think, from the Daling river at the ford below Goroodoora. This road is the best from Daling to Paro, and I will now describe roughly the country through which it runs. The first few marches leaving the fort, the sides of the forest-clad spurs are followed, gradually sinking in height until at a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles the top of the ridge is reached, and a glimpse is obtained of the Daling valley and river near Goroodoora; the road is much grown over by rank jungle, and in a few places is very narrow. Beyond the ridge for about a mile it is good, but then descends very abruptly by a zigzag path into the Tea-kan-chu valley; this is much confined, there being only a narrow belt of high grass and scrubby jungle on either side of the stream. From this place to Sipchu (two very short marches) the country is of much the same type. The Nachu and Machu and Dechu rivers *debouché* into the plains on the line of road which is bounded on the north by the first slopes of the hills, and is carried over nearly level plateaus of boulder formation lying between those rivers: these rivers have cut out narrow valleys about 150 feet below the upper level of the plateaus; these terminating in cliffs that enclose the valley which seldom exceeds a quarter of a mile in breadth. The level river beds are free of forest, but covered with high close grass. "Mahseer" are seen in the pools of these rivers, but are small in the Nachu and Machu; but the Dechu having a larger body of water and draining much further back than either of the two others, the fish in this last-named stream run large in size.

Tsakam.

Country on to
Sipchu, its rivers,
&c.

The plateaus are all clothed with forest, but in most parts not dense enough to be quite impenetrable: the plateau crossed before descending into the Dechu is less grown over by underwood, and the forest trees here assume gigantic proportions entwined with huge coils of climbing parasites, some of which finally destroy the parent supports.

I know nothing of botany, so cannot give the names of the forest trees, but a common one seems the "cotton tree," with its tall straight stem and regular branches, at this time of year (April) quite bare of foliage, but having just blossomed.

Bomoax, Hepto-
phyllum.

From commanding points looking out towards the plains these are seen covered with forest as far as the eye could reach; the nearer ground is somewhat undulating, but the drainage lines cannot be followed with certainty; the surface, if seen, would probably be much cut up by dry ravines. Some way further out in the distance the forest hides every feature of the country from view. The Dechu valley is, as a necessary accompaniment to its large water-shed, much broader than that of the other two rivers, and leaving the confinement of the alluvial cliffs, its bed widens into several channels, many of them old and dry, filled with boulders; further up stream near the cane suspension bridge these boulders are of very large size. The river at this point flows in a series of rapids, with long smooth reaches of water below, and is not fordable, save for elephants; in the rainy season it must be a most formidable river.

The Dechu valley.

Looking north, the valley is closed in on both sides by steep forest-clad mountains, their summits buried usually in dense hanging masses of cloud; the slopes of the hills some way up the stream terminating in precipitous cliffs of boulder formation, covered with a hanging forest.

The range whence the rivers above mentioned take their rise is to the north of Dalingkote, about 7,000 feet, gradually rising to 9,000 and 10,000 until they reach Giepmochi, which is 14,500 feet above the sea level; this range forms the southern boundary of Sikkim.

The Dechu takes its rise in the neighbourhood of Giepmochi, and its waters are of course much colder than those of the Machu and Nachu; the water-holds between these rivers are about 6,000 to 8,000 feet high, with the usual rounded form. The forests are full of wild elephants, their tracks being seen along the path and in numerous runs crossing the road to the right and left; rhinoceros I heard of as frequenting the margin of the rivers running towards the plains, but saw none, nor indeed any animal save a large black squirrel, although nearer the grass jungle, tigers, leopards, and many kind of deer must be plentiful. Crossing the River Dechu and the narrow damp flat on the left bank, the path ascends in a very steep zigzag track to the top of an alluvial cliff, the edge of a plateau very similar to the one we had been traversing on the west bank; the road at this point turns to the left, and at about a mile along the edge of the cliff, and at a few hundred yards from it, stands the village of Sipchu, a very small place with two decently built bamboo-houses with upper rooms, the residence of the Niboo of Jangtea, who lives here during the cold weather, and removes to Jangtea further up the river when the hot weather comes on. There is no cultivation here, and the only cleared spot is that on which the village is built. A small stream from the east flows into a ravine below the village. At this point the road towards Paro enters the hills, following a spur running up to the Toolè La, with a stiff ascent the whole way; the road is bad in many places, where by the action of water running over it, and constant use, the path has sunk deep into the clay, and is of course very narrow and obstructed by blocks of stone which have been washed out on either side. Sipchu being about 2,000 feet altitude and the Toolè La about 10,000, the ascent is about 8,000 feet; many clear open spots are passed on the more level portions of the ridge; these are covered with grass, and huts used by shepherds generally occupy such sites. As spring advances it is very difficult to obtain water at many spots on this ridge, except by going a long way down the ravines.

Sipchu.

Road over the
Toolè La.

The largest and most open of these grassy spots is that at Tsigong; one march from Sipchu.

Sipchu, where in the rains a small pond is formed fringed with rushes. Jangtsa is situated on the left bank of the River Dèchu, and can either be reached from Sipchu direct up the stream, a distance of 6½ miles, which is the best route, or by a bad forest path down the steep hill sides from a place called Tlungchu, beyond Tsigong. The wild elephant roams over the whole of these forests up to about 8,000 feet, perhaps higher, and they penetrate far up the valleys beyond Jangtsa. Through Jangtsa lies the most direct road into Sikkin, *viâ* the Pango La, about 9,000 feet; the road is described as bad, and must be much overgrown by the dense forest in that direction, as it is but little used. There are other roads from Sikkin into Bootan, passing through Chumbi in Tibetan territory, and thence to Har and Paro. Having crossed the Toole La, the road has fairly entered the mountains, and from the pass one descends into the valley of the Am Mochu, a large river from the north, which takes its rise near Phakchi or Phari in Thibet; passing the fort of the Rajah of Chumbi, it flows with a southerly direction thence to Yarbukkha, where it takes an east course of some five miles direct, under and to the south of Tsangbè, when it turns again to the south-east and joins the plains some 18 miles further down. At and about Tsangbè the scenery in the gorge of the ravine is most exquisite, a grand mixture of rocky precipice and tropical forest, while the fine body of water falls over and boils amidst huge water-worn masses of gneiss; to the north and east the valley is bounded by high mountains culminating in snowy peaks to the north-east, and the spurs of the mountains descend very abruptly into the river from shoulders some 2,500 feet above it. At the above elevation the ridges are generally broad and level; on such sites the villages are built, and good patches of ground are cultivated. On such a shoulder of the second spur from Yarbukkha, stands Tsangbè, the residence of a Souba whose house is very conspicuous, near a large white mendong (a wall into which stones, inscribed with the sacred mantra "Om ma ni," &c., are let together with rough representations of the principal deities cut on flat slabs of stone and coloured); there is also a monastery here. The villages hereabouts are more substantially built than any met with hitherto, and contain in some instances eight or ten houses; all are raised eight feet above the ground, the sides made of bamboo mats and thatched roof; a few were seen roofed with planks, and with puce-walls built up to some height above the ground; the upper story being entirely of wood.

Road to Sikkin.

Am Mochu river.

Tsangbè.

The road from Yarbukka crosses the Am Mochu at the junction of a small stream from the south by a very well-built bridge thrown from the right bank to a huge rock in the centre of the river, whence another spans it to the left bank. It is built after the usual form of all lever timber bridges in the Himalayas, with projecting abutments of large joists overlapping each other, the ends next the bank being covered and weighed down with blocks of stone; by this means the span for the main timbers is much lessened. In the bridge over the Mochu the whole bridge is strengthened and supported by strong lengths of cane passing over tressle supports at either end of the bridge; suspending caes attached to these pass under the beams of the bridge which form the roadway; thus combining the lever and suspension bridges, and forming an excessively strong piece of work; the bridge is prevented from swinging by the force of the wind by cane guys fastened to the limbs of trees on the banks; without the additional strength of the suspension ropes, the beams of the bridge would not be sufficiently strong for their great length and scantling. From the river bank the ascent on the other side is very steep for some 800 feet, but the road is broad and evidently kept in repair. After reaching a height of 1,500 feet above the valley, the road is level, and then rounding a shoulder of the hill descends gradually to a stream from the north; there is another steep ascent to the village of Tsangbè-am. Snow falls here at 6,000 feet, but does not lie long; but on the 6th February the effects of a late fall were visible in the broken and bent underwood of the jungle; no fixed points could be seen from the Mochu valley, and it was therefore impossible to keep correctly to the scale on the plane table. I therefore adopted a base as near the scale of four miles to the inch as I could estimate; from this I could make a correct map of the country, trusting at a future date to get any remarkable points within this area fixed correctly from ranges on ahead. I took as a base the distance between the village of Yarbukka and the Mendong, near the rajah's house; both places were on commanding sites whence the higher points on the ranges and spurs could be seen and cut in; this base I laid down on a clear space on the edge of my board, and carried on the survey from the points thus fixed as far as the Tegong La. The river Am Mochu flows north and south close on longitude 80°, and from its size drains a very large area. The sepchas with us informed me that this river flows under the fort of Chumbi, where the Sikkin Rajah lives during a part of the year, and thence by following the river up to Phaghi in Thibet can be reached. Since writing the above I found, on reading Turner's account of his mission to Thibet, the following remarks in his description of the Phari valley:—"At the foot of the rocks on the western border of the plain was a large brook flowing to the south, which they called Maha-tohien, and added that it had a passage through the hills of Nipal into Bengal." There is no doubt that the Maha-tohien mentioned by Turner is the Am Mochu of the Tsangbè valley; both terms meaning the "great river;" while our present knowledge of the geography of this part of the country shows it to be quite impossible that any stream near Phaghi can flow into Nipal. The direction of the Am Mochu, information of the number of marches and direction of these places, given by the natives of the country, enabled me to fix with some approach to accuracy both Chumbi and Phag Rhi, which, though small places, are considered by the people of these scantily populated countries as of some importance.

Bridge over Am Mochu, near Tsangbè.

Road near Tsangbè,

Snow fall.

Am Mochu river

Position of Chumbi and Phag Rhi in Thibet.