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I.—*An account of some of the Petty States lying north of the Tenasserim¹ Provinces; drawn up from the Journals and Reports of D. RICHARDSON, Esq., Surgeon to the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces. By E. A. BLUNDELL, Esq. Commissioner.*

[The small figures refer to the accompanying Plate, where the native words are correctly written in the Burman character.]

Of the numerous petty states north of the *Tenasserim* provinces, those only of *Zimmay*², *Labong*³ and *Lagon*⁴, on the east bank of the *Salween* and the slip of country on the west bank inhabited by a wild, barbarous, but independent tribe of mountaineers called Red Kayens⁵, have hitherto been visited by Europeans. Of the vast extent of country between the *Salween*⁶ and *Cambodia* rivers, we know little or nothing, though it is hoped the expected opening of an overland trade between the frontiers of *China* and the *Tenasserim* provinces will extend our knowledge of the intermediate country.

The town of *Zimmay* (or *Changmai*) is situated in Lat. 20 N. and Long. about 99 E. That of *Labong* is distant from *Zimmay* only 10 miles S. E. ; *Lagon* about 50 S. E. from the same. The several states are named after these towns, but their respective boundaries are not well defined, and, together with those of *Moung-pay*⁷ and *Moung-nam*, appear to be the patrimony of one family. About fifty years ago, when the whole of this country was under the dominion of *Ava*⁹, seven brothers succeeded, with the assistance of *Siam*¹⁰, in throwing off the Burmese yoke, ejected them from the above named towns, and having been confirmed in the government of them by *Siam*, have continued tributary to that kingdom, and successfully resisted all the attempts of *Ava* to regain possession. The elder brother was invested with the title of Chow-tchee-Weet, or “ Lord

of Life," with the supreme authority over the others, and the title has descended to each brother successively alive till it reached the youngest, whom Dr. RICHARDSON found on his first and second visits, but who died at the advanced age of 73 years, during his third visit. It is now in abeyance in the family, and awaits the decision of the court of *Siam*.

Of the original inhabitants of this country but a very small portion now obtains,—perhaps not above one-third of the whole, owing to the great number that were carried off by the kings of *Ava* when they overran and subjected the country. The remainder consists chiefly of Burmese¹, Peguers¹² and Shans¹³, from the different states tributary to *Ava*; either refugees or slaves; for slavery exists in this country in its worst features. The unfortunate wretches are kidnaped and seized by the hill tribes on the west bank of the *Salween*, of whom some account will be given, and eagerly purchased from them at very low rates, by the people of this country. Dr. RICHARDSON was unable to form an opinion as to the amount of the population. He was told that the towns of *Zimmay*, *Lagon*, *Moung-pay* and *Moung-nam* contain each about 20,000 and *Labong* 14,000, but he thinks these numbers exaggerated.

In person the Shans bear a great resemblance to their Burmese and Siamese neighbours, though somewhat fairer. They are muscular, well formed, and healthy in their appearance: eyes moderately linear; nose small rather than flat; the mouth large, and disfigured by black teeth and gums, which they cherish as a beauty; the hair is long, straight, lank, and almost always black. They tatoo the lower limbs, but to less extent than the Burmese. Their dress consists of a cotton *putso* or cloth round the loins, generally blue, a blue cotton jacket reaching well over the hips, and a coarse red cotton turban; though many go uncovered. The dress of the chiefs is of the same description, but the materials are more costly,—Chinese crape or satin jackets, with gold or silver lace, the *putso* of silk. The women are fair and good-looking, and their dress more becoming than that of Burmese or Siamese,—not open in front as with the former, nor tucked up between the legs as with the latter. It is, however, fastened in the same way round the body without pin or string. Old and young have the bosoms bare, or but partially covered by a small scarf thrown round the shoulders. Many of the women are disfigured with goitre, but it seldom attains a large size. The people are a quiet, mild, good-humoured race, and not addicted to many vices. Opium smoking and gambling are scarcely known, and drunkenness is uncommon. The religion is that

of Buddh, and consequently their ceremonies and festivals differ in no material manner from those of the Burmese, which are now well known: indeed there is little other difference between the two races than that of dress and language; which latter is a dialect of the Siamese with a distinct alphabet, bearing in the formation of the letters a great resemblance to the Burmese character. Of the resources of a country so thinly populated and so constantly subjugated to the devastating inroads of both Siamese and Burmese, according as one or the other of these powers held the sovereignty, it is not practicable to form an estimate. Speaking of the soil and cultivation, Dr. RICHARDSON says—"The soil in the low paddy and garden lands is a rich black loam apparently inexhaustible, in which the crops follow each other in uninterrupted succession. Cultivation is conducted with a good deal of care by irrigation and transplanting, and the return on good lands is about 120 and on inferior about 75 fold. The general seed-time is in July and August, and the harvest in December and January, though some descriptions of paddy are perfected in three months. Their plough closely resembles those used in the south of Scotland without the culture or ploughshare, and is often drawn by one buffalo. The principal articles of cultivation are the cauth-brier, or glutinous rice, cotton, maize, sugar-cane, tobacco, ground nut, chillies, several kinds of pulse, radishes, and turnips. Of grain, wheat, and other corn they have none. Pepper, cloves, and all the finer species of spices are unknown." Both the soil and climate seem well suited to the cultivation of Pernambuco cotton, which is now being introduced into the Tenasserim provinces; and it is much to be regretted that the seed with which Dr. RICHARDSON was furnished on his last visit proved bad, as the people evinced great desire to cultivate so valuable an article. If the cultivation of South American cotton is found to answer in the Tenasserim provinces, of which great hopes are entertained, every exertion will be made to introduce it into the neighbouring countries.

Tin, iron, and lead ores appear to be abundant in the country, and some of them very rich, though it does not appear that the extraction of the metal is engaged in to any extent. Dr. R. was informed that the tin ore yields 80 per cent., and some iron ore that was shown him seemed equally rich. There are extensive teak forests in that part of the country immediately adjoining our provinces, but owing to the difficulty of bringing the timber down the *Salween* river in consequence of rocks and rapids, it is doubtful whether we shall be enabled to avail ourselves of that supply to any extent. The country abounds in cattle, to procure which originally, and subsequently to

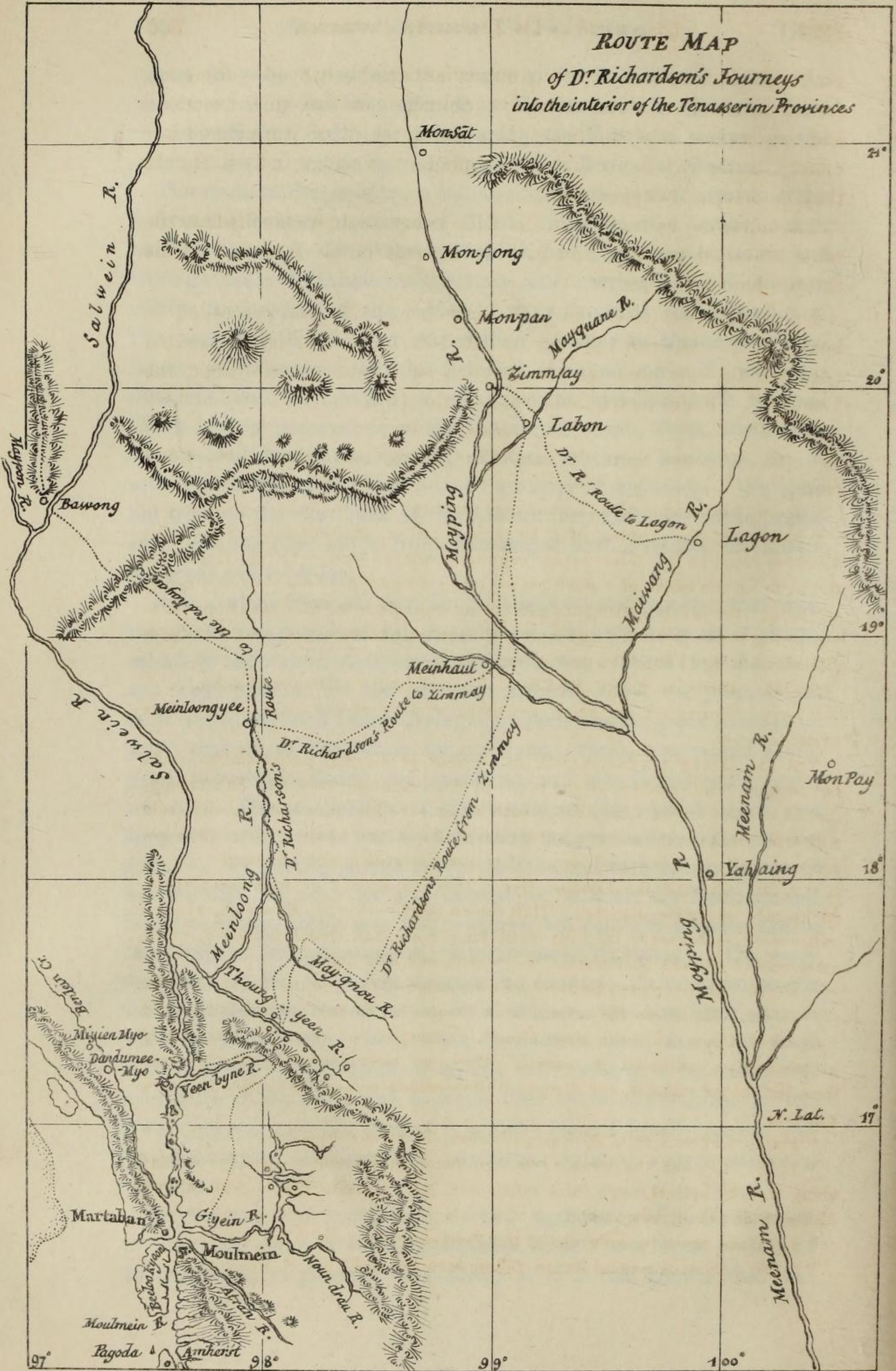
ensure the supply, has been the object of Dr. R.'s several visits. An immense saving has been effected to Government in obtaining from thence sufficient cattle for provisioning the European troops on the coast, in lieu of procuring them from either Bengal or Madras.

The trade of the country is unimportant. An annual caravan visits it from the frontier provinces of China, bringing silks, satins, velvet and woollens, (the latter chiefly English,) cooking vessels, musk, and trifling articles of Chinese manufacture; and carrying away chiefly raw cotton, the produce of the country. It is expected that a portion of this caravan will this year extend their journey to *Maulamyne*¹⁴, and hopes are entertained that this will lead to annual visits in increasing numbers, and the opening of an important overland trade between China and our possessions on the Tenasserim coast. From *Maulamyne* are received British piece goods, chintzes, muslins, hardware, &c. in return for cattle, ivory, and a small quantity of stick-lack. With the hill tribe on the west bank of the *Salween* they exchange cattle, grain and betelnut (the latter from *Maulamyne* and *Bankok*), for slaves, tin, lead, and stick-lac.

It is evident from all that Dr. R. observed and reports, that both the chiefs and people of this country are not only desirous of continuing on the most friendly and intimate footing with us, but that they are really grateful for the immense benefit which our presence in their neighbourhood has conferred upon their country; and there is no doubt that should any future danger menace them, they would gladly place themselves under our protection, and see their country under our rule. Our occupation of the provinces has spread peace and happiness over a wide extent of country entirely independent of our authority, by putting an end to that ruthless and devastating system of warfare that had been for ages carried on between the Burmese and Siamese, whose object was not conquest, but solely to plunder and to carry off the defenceless people into irremediable slavery. On many occasions, as Dr. R. passed through the country, the common people and cultivators expressed to him how different was now their state to what it was in former years, when they scarce dared leave the walls of their towns to cultivate their lands; were obliged to be armed and constantly on the alert, and to leave their wives and families in the town; whereas now the country is in every respect equally secure, and they are enabled to follow their avocations without apprehensions of any kind.

The fact may be observed here, that our occupation of the Tenasserim provinces has also proved of incalculable benefit to a large portion of the population of Burmah themselves, as it is well known that the

ROUTE MAP
of Dr Richardson's Journeys
into the interior of the Tenasserim Provinces



authorities in that country in our immediate neighbourhood,—Rangoon for instance,—have found themselves obliged to modify their exactions and oppressions, and to govern in a better spirit of justice and humanity, being well aware that the people have a refuge to fly to should they be driven to desperation.

The following extracts from Dr. RICHARDSON'S Journal will show the route travelled by him, and give an account of his reception by the chiefs whom he visited.

Dr. R. left *Maulamyne* on 11th December, 1829, and proceeded in boats up the Salween river for about 100 miles, and landed on the 14th on the east bank at the junction of a small stream called the *Yembyne*¹⁵. From hence he started on the 16th.

Journal.

“ 16th. Direction North, 70 East. Time, 3 hours ; distance, 7 miles, 4 furlongs.

“ 8. 30. Proceeded along a good path practicable for bullocks, elephants, &c.

“ 9. 35. At the bottom of a short and rather deep descent crossed the *Yembyne* river, about 70 feet broad, running South, 45 East.—11. 40. Halted for the night on the banks of a small grassy lake : the path has been good and gently ascending ; the jungle of bamboos and common jungle trees, thick and impenetrable, owing to the creepers ; the march, though only seven miles, was made with difficulty, owing to the thickness of the jungle.

“ 17th. Direction North, 80 East. Time, 3 hours ; distance, 8 miles.

“ 7. 30. Proceeded for some way along a path of the same character as yesterday.

“ 8. 15. Along a swampy path at the foot of a nearly perpendicular rock, but covered with verdure to the top.—8. 35. Another rock like the former, (called by the Careens *Lein Koso* ;) path better.—8. 45. Crossed a small stream with steep banks at the site of a village deserted last year by the Careens (who remove annually to a new position). It is now overgrown with tall jungle.

“ 9. 30. Crossed the *Yembyne* river, wide 30, deep 3 or four feet ; clear, rocky bed, swarming with fish. Halt for an hour.—10, 30. Path soft, along a valley winding amongst the hills with long grass and dwarf bamboos, much intersected by tracks of elephants, rhinoceros, and wild hog.

“ 10. 10. Again crossed the *Yembyne* river, wide 40 feet ; course South, 20 East.

“ 11. 30. Halted on the eastern bank (course S., 65 East), where it is joined by a small stream called the *Mean Keun*¹⁶, running S. 50° west ; the path nearly as yesterday ; continued to ascend. Here we were joined by the Careens from the second villages, and dismissed those who accompanied us the last two marches.

“ 18th. Course North, 80 East ; distance, 10 miles 4 furlongs.

“ 7. 30. Crossed the *Mean Keun* four times in 20 minutes, and proceeded along a rocky path through thick jungle.—8. 20. Crossed *Yea-ta-goon Keun*¹⁷ 20 feet wide ; clear rocky bed.

“ 9. Came again to the banks of the *Yembyne* river.

“ 9. 10. Crossed a small stream falling into the last.

“ 9. 30. Path soft through long grass surrounded by hills.

“ 9. 40. Along the rocky bed of the *Yea-ta-goon-keun*, (waterfall stream.)

“ 10. 30. Halted for half an hour.—11. Ascended with some difficulty the face of a broken rock 3 or 400 feet in height, over which the water of the *Yea-ta-goon* during the rains falls.—11. 30. Halted at the top of the waterfall, within sound of another which we heard tumbling from the hills above us to the eastward. The path to-day continued ascending and very bad, either soft with long grass, or rocky and uneven and extremely tortuous; but the Careens say it is the only pass through this part of the hills; that elephants, horses and bullocks formerly travelled it with loads, and that it was the route of the Burman army in 1790. Passed some of the large bamboos peculiar to this country, some catechu, and some of the tree with the sap of which the Careens poison their arrows. The rest of the jungle consisted of common jungle trees, immense creepers, and the common bamboos; tracks of elephants and wild hogs were numerous, but no marks of the rhinoceros, which is confined to the more level part of the country where grass is abundant.

“ 19th. Direction North, 55 West. Time, 3 hours, 15 minutes; distance, 8 miles.

“ 7. 30. Path along the stony bed of a stream.

“ 7. 55. Skirt a ravine to the eastward.

“ 8. 30. Crossed the *Keung Cank*¹⁸, or crooked stream, eight or ten times running in various directions.

“ 9. Path a little better, but repeatedly crossed by the *Keung Cank*.

“ 9. 45. Halted on the banks of the *Ween Wee*¹⁹, a small stream 15 or 20 feet wide, which falls into the *Thaung-Ein*²⁰ to the north-eastward. The path to-day was wet and bad; the jungle thick. No marks of inhabitants. Were joined in the evening by four Musulmans, who, together with seven who accompanied us, and five sepoys, make the party amount to forty-two persons. Those who joined us to-day came by the *Gyne*²¹ road in nine days from *Maulamyne*, five by water to *Daggue*²², and four by land. They represented the road as bad, and hilly, only accessible to people unincumbered, but inhabited by Careens, five or six of whose villages they had passed.

“ 20th. Direction North, 35 East. Time, 2 hours; distance, 4 miles.

“ 7. 30. Crossed the *Ween Wee*, and ascended a rather steep hill and proceeded along an ascending path, which appears as if cut along the face of the hill on the bank of a ravine 300 or 350 feet deep, but clothed with small trees and verdure, as are all the hills, even those which are nearly perpendicular.

“ 8. Descending along a similar path through a jungle of the large bamboos; paths particularly good.

“ 9. 45. Descended along the rather steep bed of a stream, water ankle deep; path extremely bad.—9. 55. Came to the bank of the *Thaing-Ein*²³ (called by the Shans *May-pmoie*) river, wide 160 or 180 feet; moved a short way down the western bank, north 20 east, in the direction of its course, and crossed over to the eastern side by assistance of a boat and some bamboo rafts. I had been led by the guide to believe that we should be met here by some chiefs of the *Zimmay* country with elephants, &c. to assist us in transporting the baggage and presents, and to accelerate our movements towards their capital; they had, however, decamped eight or nine days before our arrival, and we took pos-

session of their sheds, which were the first human habitations we had seen since leaving the boats. The *Thaing-Ein* river is the old boundary between the Burman and Siamese countries, and is now the British boundary in this direction with the latter nation. It arises in this range of hills about eight or ten days' march in a south-easterly direction from this, about one day's march from the course of the *Gyne* river, and falls into the *Mein-lun-ghee*²⁴ (called by the Shans *Mun-neum*) two days west from this. The united streams fall into the *Thaluru*²⁵ some distance above a cataract in the latter river, which entirely cuts off all water communication with the country above it, and in which even timber is shattered to pieces that happens to get into it.

" 21st. Felt the first effects of being in the Siamese country, in being obliged to halt till the road was cleared by the Careens. There was an evident desire on the part of the Careens, who met us here, to detain us for a day or two: they indeed privately declared their orders from *Chow Ho Kio*, the chief who was to have met us here, to do so. I, however, intimated my intention to proceed on the following day. We were here furnished with a pig, rice, and fowls.

" 22nd. Direction North, 20 East. Time, 2 hours, 30 minutes; distance, 6 miles, 2 furlongs.

" 7 A. M. Proceeded along a good path through a patch of cultivated ground, where the Careens grow the hill rice, which is fine and small in the grain.

" 7. 15. Ascended.—8. Crossed the *May-tha-woe*²⁶ river, wide 60 feet, clear stony bed; abundance of fish.—8. 45. Path along the side of a hill of the same character as last march. On the top of a steep rocky hill above the road is perched the first Careen village we saw. The houses are entirely composed of bamboos; the roof, with a very little slope, is made of two rows of split bamboos; the first row with the concave side up, and their edges touching the second, with the convex side up, and their edges in the trough of the first, embracing the two contiguous edges. There were only three houses in the village, the inhabitants of which, old and young, might amount to forty or fifty people; abundance of pigs, poultry, rice, &c. The people are dirty in their persons, and the skins of the men generally rough and scaly from exposure;—they were much alarmed at our first approach, but we gradually gained their confidence.

12. 30. Continued our march, and at 1 halted on the side of the *May-tha-woe* (which we frequently crossed in the course of to-day's march) in thick jungle, within sound of a heavy fall of water.

" 23rd. Direction North, 20 West. Time, 2 hours, 30 minutes; distance, 5 miles, 6 furlongs.

" 10 A. M. Having sent the coolies on three hours before, on account of the steepness of the hills: proceeded along a pretty good elephant path up the *steepest* hill we had yet ascended.—10. 45. A plantation of small seed cotton.

" 11. 50. Reached the top of the ascent, from which we could count seven ridges of hills which we had crossed, running north, 20 east, to south, 20 west, but very irregular and broken in the descent.

" 12. 5. Crossed the *Tsieu-dzoé*²⁷, (Elephant's tusk) rivulet, wide 15 or 20 feet.—12. 30. Halted on the banks of the stream at the foot of an extensive hill, covered with paddy stubble; the Careens say they reap 30 or 40 folds; and the rice is the finest I have ever seen, almost transparent, and when boiled beautifully white. The Careens of the hills have no cooking or eating apparatus;

the rice and a sort of vegetable stew are boiled in a joint of the bamboo, and the latter served up in another split in form of a trough, round which they squat with their rice on any leaf they can find large enough; there is one shell spoon in the stew which serves the whole party. This day's march was one of much labour to the coolies: many of them were seven hours on the road.

"24th. Direction North, 20 West. Time, 3 hours, 15 minutes; distance, 7 miles.

"7. 30. Proceeded along a worse path than usual, over a succession of hills, many of them covered with paddy to the tops, which would indicate a very considerable Careen population. The greater part of the hills this day were of primitive sandstone.—11. 10. Halted by a small stream at the foot of a hill.

"25th. Direction North, 60 East. Time, 4 hours; distance 9 miles.

"7. 30. Ascended a rather steep hill along a path much the same as we had travelled for the last few days.—9. 25. Marched along the bed of a stream about knee deep; the bottom rocky and broken, the water extremely cold, and the sun hot and beating on our heads till 11. 30, when we halted on the banks of the *Moy-Gnow*²⁸ river, (wide 150 or 160 feet) running to the northward and falling into the *Mein-lunghi* about one day above where the *Thaung-Ein* falls into the same river. No marks of cultivation throughout this day's march. Passed a number of teak and *thet-tse* trees: of the former there is an extensive forest on the eastern bank of the *Moy-Gnow*, but the falls of the *Thalun* render it extremely difficult to transport it to the coast. The famous *thet-tse* varnish is merely the juice of the tree, which exudes from notches made in the bark into vessels placed to receive it, and is fit for use without further preparation. The tree has somewhat the appearance of the bastard teak. Saw also several small carroway trees in the jungle.—One o'clock. After a flourish of gongs in the jungle on the other side of the river, several Shans made their appearance, and a Burman of the party pushed over to our side of the river on a bamboo raft, and after ascertaining that I was not accompanied by an army, as had been reported by the Careens, communicated the fact to those on the other side: four petty chiefs, the heads of the party, then came over; they said they had been sent by the chief of *Zammy* to welcome me, and offered us their assistance for the rest of the march. They dispatched a letter to *Zammy* to announce our arrival, and begged us to remain one day on the present ground, assuring me that they had five elephants for my use. These elephants were a very seasonable relief, as the people were much knocked up, and the nature of the paths over steep hills or stony beds of small streams, had precluded the possibility of my riding for a single march.

"26th. Halted till some bamboo rafts were made to transport part of the baggage, which could not be carried on the elephants down the *Moy-Gnow*. I found that the chiefs who met me were part of the licensed robbers of *Labong*, and one of them (a Burman formerly captured in one of their predatory expeditions) was exceedingly anxious to excuse them for carrying off some of our people last year, as they were mistaken for Burmans. The Careens brought three pigs, some fowls, and rice, enough for the whole party: the Shans would not allow me to pay for them; hitherto every thing had been paid for that was brought to us.

"27th. Direction North, 30 West. Time, 5 hours, 30 minutes; distance, 15 miles.

"9. 30 A. M. Marched through a beautiful forest of teak and *thenghan* trees, on both banks of the river, which we crossed no less than nineteen times, occasionally following a path, more frequently without any, and the river in many places just fordable by the elephants; the whole of the baggage and most of the people were conveyed either on the elephants or on the bamboo rafts.—3 P. M. Halted on the east bank of the *Moy-Gnow*, having crossed one or two trifling hills in the course of the day, but the march was on the whole a slight descent, as we followed the course of the stream through the hills towards its mouth; the country was entirely uncultivated, and destitute of any sign of inhabitants. The wild elephants are much more scarce on this than on the western side of the *Moy-Gnow*, and even there much less numerous than on the British side of the *Thaung-Ein*. Tigers, deer, wild cows, &c. &c. are, however, numerous here. The Shans march without tents or coverings of any description, and make little huts of branches after each march in the same manner as the Burmese.

"28th. Direction North, 30 West. Time, 4 hours, 15 minutes; distance, 12 miles.

"11 A. M. Crossed the river ten times, and proceeded along the banks through a country of the same character as yesterday, with scarcely a sign of a path, and learned that this road is never travelled except by the chiefs when collecting the tribute from the Careens, who, in the neighbourhood, are tributary to *Ponya*²⁹ or *Benya-tche*, the principal of the four little chiefs who came to meet me.—3. 15. Halted on the east bank of the river, about the same width as when we first came on its bank.

"29th. Direction North, 25 West. Time, 2 hours; distance, 6 miles.

"9 A. M. Continued our march along the banks of the *Moy-Gnow* till about 10 A. M. when we left it to the westward, and, crossing a rather steep hill, came at 11 o'clock on the banks of the *Mein-lun-ghee* (running to the southward; wide about 120 feet) a short way above where it is joined by the *Moy-Gnow*.—11 A. M. Crossed and halted. Saw numerous marks of elephants, deer, elk, and hog, in a soft part of the jungle to-day: the Shans say that they all eat that sort of mud, a kind of black stiff (probably saline) loam or rather clay;—killed a small animal to-day called by the Burmans *Poe*³⁰, and of which I do not recollect to have seen any description. The head is large and round, like an otter; the cutting teeth like a rat, and feet slightly webbed, somewhat resembling in appearance, though inferior in strength, to the moles. The fur exactly like that animal, but larger in the staple, and, I think, even finer—it is little larger than a common English mole, and burrows with great rapidity. There are two kinds of the same animal; the other differs in being much larger, and the hair coarse and harsh, like the bandicoot. I regret that the specimens I obtained were both lost.

"30th. Direction North, 30 West. Time, 4 hours; distance, 12 miles.

"10. 20. Continued to march along the *Mein-lun-ghee* in the same way as we had done along the *Moy-Gnow*. Crossed twelve times to-day. Its average breadth 130 or 140 feet, and depth about six feet. Its course continues amongst the hills, which are covered with teak and *that-tse* trees, as those of the *Moy-Gnow*.—At 2. 20 halted on the western bank of the river in a small patch of paddy in a plain of few miles extent; the first lowland paddy we have seen since leaving the *Thalween*, and the first of any cultivation since joined by the Shans.

"31st. Direction North, 20 West. Time, 4 hours, 10 minutes; distance, 12 miles.

“ 8. 15. Marched to-day along a path better than any we have seen since crossing the *Moy-Gnow*.

“ 11. Passed the village of *Bowtaa*³¹; 12 or 14 houses surrounded by a small patch of cultivation. Having crossed the *Mein-lung-hee* river four times to-day.— 12. 25. Halted in a rather extensive patch of paddy stubble belonging to the village *Kapa*³², which is distant a mile and a half. Nearly the whole of the country between this and the village, which is in a small valley, has last year been under cultivation; all the rice in the country is of that glutinous description called by the Burmans *kanghuyeen*; the only hard rice that can be obtained is from the Careens, who left us to-day, and by whom we have been accompanied from the neighbourhood of one village to that of another since leaving the *Thalween*. They are a fair, well-limbed, athletic race, superior in appearance generally to the Talines and Burmans, but have been oppressed from time immemorial by Talines, Burmans, and Shans, whoever happened to have the ascendance. They have been obliged to furnish provisions, erect huts, cut the jungle from the edges of the path, and furnish guides to all travellers crossing the hills, the latter of which services they performed for us, and were much surprized at being paid for whatever they furnished us. They annually shift their habitation, and if they pitch upon a site near a path, it is immediately shut up. In addition to the other inhabitants of the jungle, we to-day saw marks of rabbits in considerable number.

“ *January 1st.* Direction North, 20 West. Time, 4 hours, 50 minutes; distance, 14 miles.

“ 9. 45. Proceeded along a good path through the paddy grounds of the village of *Kapa*, which we passed at 10. 20, consisting of about thirty or forty houses precisely in the Burman style, with one or two *Pungee*³³ houses, but no pagodas, &c.— 11. 25. Passed the first pagoda we have seen since leaving *Thalween*, perfectly dilapidated. Near a small village saw 70 or 100 heads of good cattle in a rather extensive paddy field.— 2. 35. After traversing a grassy plain intersected with belts of jungle, halted on the south bank of a small stream running to the westward and falling into the *Mein-lung-hee* river about quarter of a mile from the village of *Mein-lung-hee*. The path to-day was well marked, and there was more appearances of cultivation than we had before seen. We only crossed the *Mein-lung-hee* river three times. The rise of water in the rains, from the marks on the trees and banks in this river, cannot be less than 30 or 40 feet.

“ The Shans being anxious to detain me on the road till an answer is received to the letter notifying my arrival, dispatched on the day I met them, I have consented, as I cannot well proceed without their assistance, to remain here two days.”

The town, or rather village, of *Mein-lung-hee* at which Dr. R. arrived this day, is a collection of huts about 200 in number, scattered over an extensive plain of $3\frac{1}{2}$ or four miles in width, through which the river of the same name runs, having its rise about fifteen or twenty days' journey north, and pursuing a southerly course nearly parallel to the *Salween* till joined by the *Thoung-yeen*, when the united streams take a westerly course and enter the *Salween*. The town is under the jurisdiction of *Labong*³⁴, from whence a governor is appointed,

who levies contributions from the Kayen tribes in the neighbourhood, and is not scrupulous of occasionally extending his exactions into our portion of the country. Such is the wild life and timorous nature of these tribes that they submit to any one who appears invested with any authority, and it is difficult to induce them to visit *Maulamyne* with their complaints. *Mein-lun-ghee* being the first frontier station, is generally passed through by the traders of *Maulamyne*, and the Shan States also by those of the latter, who visit the country of the Red Kayens to purchase slaves. An effort was made to detain Dr. R. here, till an answer should be received from *Labong* regarding him; but on evincing a determination either to proceed or to return immediately to *Maulamyne*, elephants were furnished him, and he resumed his route on the 6th.

“6th. Direction South, 80 East. Time, 3 hours, 30 minutes; distance, 10 miles.

Six elephants were produced, and at 10. 20 we proceeded across the valley to the south-eastward.—11. 12. Commenced the ascent of the eastern hills, which is gradual but considerable.

“1. 15. Crossed the *Moy-Konie*³⁵ within quarter of a mile of a fall 60 or 80 feet to the S. W. of the road.

“1. 50. Halted on the banks of the *Moy-Konie*. Three of the elephants had four young; all born in captivity, which the Shans speak of as a thing of course: one of them had two, one about six years old, the other about $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3, still sucking. We here left all the little chiefs, but *BENYA-CHI* and the Burman who was taken prisoner twenty-five years ago. The road to-day (one of the principal routes to the *Careen Uee* (or Red Careens) country) was good, and the hills not very steep.

“7th. Direction South, 80 East. Time, 7 hours, 50 minutes; distance, 14 miles.

“8. 55. Steep ascent for two hours; great part of the way in ruts as deep as the elephants' backs worn by the mountain torrents.

“11. The mist on the hills and valley below us with a beautiful clear sun on it, had exactly the appearance of snow. A cold piercing wind from the eastward.—11. 15. Narrow road along the side of a hill which rises perhaps 150 or 160 feet above it, with a deep ravine below to the eastward.—12. Continued cold and chilly; left the elephant; steep descent for nearly an hour.—2. 45. Halted on the banks of the *May-lie*³⁶ (which falls into the *Mein-lun-ghee* about a day below the village) on a beautiful little plain surrounded by high hills, and bounded on the south-west by the stream 10 or 12 feet wide.

“The march to-day was almost a continued ascent; some of the hills very steep; the elephants frequently obliged to stop from fatigue; the paths tolerably good, evidently much frequented, and said to be cut by a Shan king³⁷ of great power, but evidently the tracts of elephants deepened by the torrents, in many places as deep as the backs of the elephants, not more than 18 inches wide at the bottom, and just clear of the howdahs at the top. The elephant from which I dismounted at 12 did not come to the ground till 4. 45, and was consequently

8 hours, 50 minutes on the road; some of them did not arrive till an hour afterwards from the difficulty of the ascent.

“8th. Direction North, 70 East. Time, 5 hours; distance, 12 miles.

“9. Continued to ascend the hills in a path rather better than that of yesterday; free from ruts.—10. 45. A good broad road along the side of the hills for an hour or two.—2. Halted on a small plain near the *Lowa* village of *Meing-lay-been*³⁸ containing five or six houses. The nights have gradually been becoming cooler as we ascended, and there are seven of the people ill with fever in consequence. The thermometer stood at 46° in the tent this morning at 8 A. M.

“The jungle plantain, thet-tse, bamboos, and pine in luxuriance, the latter forming the principal part of the jungle (or forest, for it has lost much of its density in these upland regions;) the creepers have almost disappeared, and the trees which form the crest of the hills to the westward may almost be counted in the afternoon, and might be traversed with little difficulty.—At 11. 15 to-day from the top of one of the high hills nothing could be seen as far as the eye could range but masses of hills rising one above another, covered with the same description of jungle to their summits, but no snow to be seen; if they can be said to be disposed at all into ranges, it is between S. S. E. and N. N. W. but they are extremely irregular and broken.

“9th. Direction North, 45 East. Time, 6 hours; distance, 10 miles.

“8. 55. Continued to ascend.—2. 30. Open forest, composed entirely of fir trees, tall, straight, and free from branches, to the height probably of 50 feet.

“2. 55. Halted at the *Lowa*³⁹ village of *Bo*⁴⁰, situated in an open plain in the forest, perhaps of 12 or 15 miles in length by five or six in breadth, as has been the case ever since leaving the *Mein-lun-ghee*. Our march has been a continued ascent, but gradually surmounting hills in succession, with several descents throughout; we are now said to occupy the highest and coldest halting place on the road; the fir has been the most numerous tree throughout the march, and the only one during the latter part of the day. The village of *Bo* consists of 60 or 80 houses: the people are all ironsmiths, and are exempted from all service but furnishing elephants' chains, cooking pots, spears, and other iron-ware to the Shans during war, or for military purposes; the iron ore is a red oxyd, and is found in immense masses in a hill to the north-westward less than one day's journey. It is brought to the village on elephants and melted in a simple furnace—yields nearly 50 per cent. of metal, soft and unfit for knives, ploughs, shears, &c. &c.; they have not the art of hardening it. The people are said to be rich, particularly in elephants, of which there are not less than sixty or seventy in the village.

“10th. Direction South, 65 East. Time, 5 hours, 40 minutes; distance, 14 miles.

“10 A. M. Ascended by a good path, much frequented throughout.—10. 20, descent.—1. 25. Saw the *May-ping*⁴¹ river, which falls into the sea at *Bankok*.—2. 20. Rocky steep, difficult descent.—3. 15. Crossed the *May-papie*⁴² river, knee deep, running easterly.—3. 40. Halted on the banks of the *May-papie* on a small grassy plain. Since 12. 20 we have been descending; the road though rocky has been pretty good, the air is decidedly milder, the pine has been gradually diminishing in numbers, and now not one is to be seen; the jungle just here is very close; the rocks throughout the latter part of the march old gray

sandstone, previous to which they have been granite with a large portion of felspar.

“ 11th. Direction North, 80 East. Time, 4 hours ; distance, 12 miles.

“ 8. 40. Crossed the *May-papie* : good path and less precipitous.—11. 50. Crossed a small dry rivulet in which rubies of small value are found.—12. 5. Crossed the *May-Haut*⁴³ about knee deep, by which the paddy between this and the village is irrigated ; nearly all the paddy in the plains of the valley of *May-ping* is cultivated in the same way.—12. 30. Halted at the village of *Maing-Haut*⁴⁴ (pronounced by the Burmans *Mein-Woot*) on the west bank of the *May-ping*, which runs to the southward and falls into the sea at *Bankok* after joining the *May-nam*⁴⁵.

“ The march to-day continued to descend gradually, with a few trifling acclivities till 12 ; since which nearly level ; the climate proportionately improved ; the jungle has assumed the same character as on the other side of the hills, but more open.

“ We are now fairly in the valley of the *May-ping*, and have the prospect for the next three or four days of seeing something of the level country, but the whole extent of the country between the *Thalween* and *May-ping*, with trifling exceptions (such as the little valley of the *Mein-lun-ghee*), is one succession of mountains ; nearly all of the primitive series, principally gravel gneiss trap, lime and sandstone.

“ We crossed the *May-papie* thirteen times to-day. The village *Maun-Haut* contains about sixteen houses of the most uncomfortable appearance ; it is about 12 days from *Bankok*, with which the communication is frequent ; the river here is about 200 yards across, and rather rapid ; there are a number of palmyra, cocoanut and other fruit trees, both here and on the opposite side, where there is also a small village.

“ The river here is a little wider than above or below the village, and just fordable by elephants ; there are few fish in the river, and the people almost ignorant of the art of catching them. On endeavouring to procure boats as the easiest conveyance for the sick, I was not a little surprised when only one small canoe could be procured, in which only one of the worst cases could be sent forward.

“ Remained here one day at the request of the persons who accompany me, in order to transmit intelligence to *Labong* of our approach.

“ 13th. Direction North, 20 East. Time, 5 hours ; distance, 15 miles.

“ 9. 15. Road lies along the foot of the western hill ; the river turns towards the eastern hills, which are distant about 20 miles.—11. 55. Crossed the *Nam-May-tcheem*⁴⁶, wide 100 yards ; fordable by elephants.—1. 45. River 200 yards wide ; full of shoals.—2. 5. Crossed the *May-ping*, and halted on its eastern bank in an open jungle, where a house⁴⁷ had been built for our reception. The road to-day has been nearly level and much frequented ; the whole of the valley was inundated last year to a greater extent than is recollected by the oldest people, the paddy being nearly all destroyed, and the people obliged to take to the hills.

“ 14th. Direction North, 30 East. Time, 5 hours, 15 minutes ; distance, 16 miles.

“ 8. 15. Road good level.—9. 55. Grassy plains.—1. 30. Crossed the *May-lie*⁴⁸, which falls in the *May-ping* four miles to the westward, wide about thirty or forty yards ; halted on the eastern bank at the village of *Naung-long*⁴⁹.

“15th. Direction North, 60 East. Time, 7 hours; distance, 21 miles.

“8. 5. Road good, passable for bandies.—12. 20. Grassy plains intersected with jungle.—1. Western hills distant 20 miles; eastern hills, 4 miles; hills in sight to the northward.—1. 30. Paddy ground; numbers of buffaloes and black cattle.—2. 10. Halted between the village of *Bansan-kanoy*⁵⁰ and *Bansoupta*⁵¹ on the western bank of the *May-ta*⁵², a small stream, which falls into the *May-quang*⁵³ about a quarter of a mile from this, and from thence into the *May-ping* a quarter of a mile further to the south-west.

“The road to-day has been very good, much frequented and passable for a bullock cart; throughout marks of recent inundation are still very visible; oranges, pummaloos, pine apple, mangoe, palmyra, cocoanut, guavas, and other fruits are abundant; the first and the cocoanut are the only two now in season. The people have much improved in appearance; some of the women and children are nearly as fair as Europeans: many of the latter with light hair; the eyes are large and expressive, not at all like the Chinese; the nose, however, is small, like the Burman.

“They have had a report current here for the last month, that the English were coming up with 1,000 men, which has alarmed them a good deal. A letter has been dispatched to the people here to-day, telling them who I am, and ordering them to supply me with every thing I want; and the messenger begged I would remain here two or three days, till the road was made smooth and every thing ready for my reception at the capital. There is no way of avoiding their ridiculous delays.”

Dr. R. was delayed here a few days, on the plea of preparing for his reception, and ascertaining from the astrologers a lucky day for his visit.

“20th. Direction North, 20 East. Time, 2 hours, 10 minutes; distance, 6 miles.

“10. 20. Started on horseback with ten or twelve elephants, each having a little either of my baggage or presents. At 11. 35 I was met by the second son-in-law of the *Tsoboa*, the 3rd chief of the province, with fifty elephants. On each were mounted some of the numerous relations of the chiefs. They had brought a spare elephant for me, on which after complimentary speeches of welcome, I mounted, and we continued our march; the elephant on which I rode being last. In this procession we proceeded slowly towards the town, occasionally stopping to let the elephants pull the pine apple plants and plantain trees out of the gardens of the poor people, with whom the chiefs chatted on the most familiar terms.

“At 12. 30 we arrived at this spot, about a mile from the town, which they had fixed on for my encampment. My tent was already pitched in a little square of sheds, which they had built for the people. The chiefs remained with me about an hour, examined the muskets, talked of our soldiers, &c., and then took their leave. On inquiry I found there were two chiefs from *Lagon*, but none from *Zimmay* present. There is only a small portion of the walls of the fort visible from this, and none of the houses; and from the immense number of cocoanut and betelnut trees growing inside, it has more the appearance of a forest than a fort; the tops of two pagodas (one of which is gilt) are

visible over the tops of the trees ; the whole country is so covered with wood that not twenty houses are to be seen from this place : there are as many round the Fort as there are in it. It stands on the right bank of the *May-quang*⁵⁴, which is here about 30 feet wide and three deep at this season, though navigable for boats of some burthen during the rise of the river. The *May-quang* falls into the *May-ping* about half a mile from this (in the valley of which river both this town and *Zimmay* are situated), which pursues its course amongst the hills from this to within a few days of *Bankok*, where the hills terminate, and the country spreads into a plain populous and fertile. The valley varies in breadth from 10 or 12 miles to 60 or 80 ; the soil is a rich sandy loam, and from the beds of the river apparently of great depth ; the hills are of very considerable height, but no snow is visible from this, though the thermometer at 7 o'clock is seldom above 53°. The distance from this to the frontier towns of *China* is about 40 elephant marches (probably of 12 or 15 miles each) over the northern hills, and throughout that distance no snow is said to be encountered ; but to what other cause than snow the rise of the river can be attributed, I am ignorant ; as it is thought a heavy monsoon if there are three or four days of heavy rain in a month. The annual rise of the river is considerable, and last year was so excessive as to drive the whole population from its bank.

“ I have had no communication with any of the chiefs to-day, but a letter was sent to the person (a *Benya*) left here to provide any thing I might want, to keep the *Pungees* and the people from crowding round my tent, in consequence of a representation of mine yesterday. The bearer of the letter said it was the wish of the chief that I should be presented to-morrow, and begged that I would not bring any pocket pistols or any other hidden instrument of death ; I requested to know if I should wear any sword, as it was looked on by us as a mark of respect ; to which they also objected. The materials have this evening been brought to build me a small house.

“ 21st. At 12. 30 sixteen coolies with seven large silver, and nine copper calats (salvers), and a body of peons armed with spears, came out to carry the presents and conduct me to the presence of the chief.

“ The walls of the fort are formed of the red ferruginous porous stone common in *Burmah* at the bottom and the top of bricks of the most slender construction ; the sides of the streets for a few yards were lined with the common people, bearing muskets ; the shed (about quarter of a mile from the gate) in which the chief received me, was about 60 feet long and 20 wide, with three sheds at right angles built for the occasion, occupying the whole of the front, all of which were filled with people ; many of them near relations of the chief, and all in the crouching position common with the *Burmans* ; nearly all armed either with swords or muskets. The presents had already arrived, and were placed at the upper end of the centre shed. Having made a bow to the chief, I went immediately up to his seat (a small light chair) and presented the letter. I said that I was fortunate in being the first to open the road of friendship between the two countries, that it was the wish of the English Government that the merchants of each should be as uncontrolled in the territories of his neighbour as if they were in their own, &c. &c. He answered, he had long turned the eyes of friendship towards us ; that he was happy the gold and silver road had been opened ; that he hoped we should now be as one people, but that the presents must be

sent to the king of Siam, whose instructions would be taken. He wished to know what terms we were on with the Burmese. I said on terms of friendship: that after a war of two years they had sued for peace, and had obtained it—that they had nearly fulfilled the terms of the treaty, and that it was a principle of the English to forget an injury as soon as reparation was made. He said such was not the case with them; that they had been at war with the Burmans for ages, and that they killed or made slaves of them whenever they had it in their power—that the Burmans were equally inveterate. He then asked if I thought I could obtain an order from the Commissioner of *Maulamyne* for the Burmese to give up some tribes of Shans who had originally formed part of their kingdom of *Siam*. I said they were Burman subjects; and though we had conquered the greater part of their kingdom, it had been restored to them, and that we had now no control over them. He said that we had the *Thenieu*⁵⁵ or *Siriam* Shans with us; that they were originally from *Caung-Ghan*⁵⁶; and that if they wished to return to the land of their forefathers, he hoped that they would not be prevented. I said, that *they* were our subjects, and that if they wished to return, every facility for doing so would be afforded them.

“ I thought this too favorable an opportunity to be missed, as I knew nearly every one in court was aware of my being acquainted with the circumstance of thirty or forty families of Burmans having been carried off by his people when coming to *Maulamyne* with a pass from Sir A. CAMPBELL. Seeing the person who carried them off in court; and a Mussulman merchant being with me who had represented the impropriety of their proceedings at the time, and fearing that an unfavorable construction might be put on my silence and a precedent for like enormities in future; knowing also that Major BURNEY had demanded and obtained from the court of *Siam* the liberation of several hundred people carried off by the Siamese from about *Mergui* and *Tenasserim*; I thought it my imperative duty, as the business had already in some degree been agitated, to endeavour to obtain their release, notwithstanding my instructions were not to interfere in the matter if it could be avoided. I therefore said, I hoped equal indulgence would be granted to the *Taline* people who had been taken with the British General's pass. He denied having seen the pass, though I believed at the time and have since heard that it was shewn him when several of the *Zimmay* and *Logan* chiefs were present—that their liberation was agitated and opposed by the *Zimmay* chiefs. The chief who carried them off being in court, and having been before pointed out to me, I immediately put it to him, and he acknowledged that the pass was still with him, but no one present understood English; that they were ignorant of its contents, but it should be brought to my tent in the evening. CHOW-TCHE-WEET said it should be made known at *Siam*, and that they must abide by the instructions from thence. I mentioned the circumstance of Major BURNEY's mission, and said I was sure it only required to be made known to his Siamese Majesty. The old chief was evidently much embarrassed during this part of the conversation; however, in case of any thing further being done towards their liberation, he cannot again plead ignorance. I repeated the hope that our intercourse might be free and unrestrained, and was again told that they must wait for instructions from *Siam*. I said that they might come to our settlement on the coast with the same freedom they would go to *Lagon* or *Zimmay*, and requested that PONYA-TCHE (who had

asked me to make the request) might be allowed to accompany me to *Maulamyne*, where he would see the facility with which business was carried on amongst us, and the advantage to both countries which would arise from an unrestrained trade. He said he was about to send him to *Bankok* with the presents I had brought in the course of next month. I hoped he would find it convenient to send some one else, and from the great number of chiefs I there saw round the hall, I thought it could easily be managed. I then took my leave, and in the evening *PONYA-TCHE* called on me, expressed himself much disappointed, and begged I would not give up the point. He was persuaded if I repeated the request he should be allowed to accompany me, and as he is one of the most intelligent persons I have met here, and the ultimate object of the Mission likely to be forwarded by his accompanying me, I promised I would do so. I asked him if there was any objection to my riding through the fort, &c. &c. He told me *CHOW-TCHE-WEET* had desired him to tell me I was at liberty to go where I pleased in the day, but that the gates of the fort were shut at night, and that it was rather expected I should call on some of the lesser chiefs, his numerous relations. I proposed calling to-morrow on his son-in-law, and one or two others of the chiefs who met me on the road and remained here the day I arrived."

The following are extracts from Dr. R.'s journal during his residence here, which are the most likely to interest the general reader.

"They had no idea that any European would attempt to cross the hills. I visited *CHOW HOUA*^{57*}; he is an intelligent man, about 40, of quiet and agreeable manners, to whom the chief government of the province is entrusted. The whole conversation was of the war with the Burmans, their hatred to whom is only exceeded by their dread, and their expressions of friendship for us proportioned to their idea of our power from having conquered the Burmese. The *Zimmay* chief who is nephew to *CHOU-TCHE-WEET* is by no means so friendly to us as the others, and there is some sparring between them now, about my being allowed to come here. On my return in the evening I found *CHOW-NI-MOI-KOIN* at my house with two of the first chief's wives and several musicians, waiting to entertain me with a natch and singing; the music was particularly pleasing. One man, a northern Shan, sang remarkably well, both as to taste and execution, much in the style of the Chinese, but much superior to any thing I ever heard in that country. I presented a cotton handkerchief and a Madras rupee to each, with which they were highly pleased.

"24th. Rode round the fort to-day, which is of an irregular form; the largest end towards the south. The east, west, and southern faces are nearly of the same length (probably 15 or 1600 feet); the north end not more than 1,000. The wall is from 15 to 23 feet high outside, and from 13 to 18 inside, and of the most flimsy possible structure, with four gates in the east and two in the south, two on the west, and one in the north face, surrounded on three sides by a wet ditch of 60 or 70 feet wide and in good repair. On the east side the river flows: at this season it is not more than knee-deep; at the gates are guards of half a dozen coolies without arms. On the eastern bank of the river opposite the fort are the remains of an old stockade of equal size with the fort, with brick angles and bastions. The houses are more numerous without than within the fort. On the western side is an extensive plain of rich

* The title of the heir-apparent to the chieftainship.

paddy ground as far as the eye can reach from north to south, and five or six miles from east to west covered at this season with many thousand head of cattle, buffalos, also elephants in considerable numbers. Saw some of their bandies, which are the best specimen of their workmanship I have seen; the wheels are exactly like, and equal to those of a common English cart.

“ 25th. I have heard to-day that orders have been given to the people not to buy any thing from the merchants who accompanied me, and not to come about my house. Yesterday they endeavoured to exchange their goods for cattle, but the people dare not sell without orders, though anxious to do so. I sent the interpreter to CHOW-TCHE-WEET, as is the custom here, to intimate my intention of calling on him. He excused himself on account of indisposition. I told the interpreter also to say I was anxious to return on Saturday or Sunday at farthest, and to inquire if there were any objection to my going to *Zimmay*, to which I received no answer.

“ Called on CHOW RAJAWOON, an elder brother of CHOW-TCHE-WEET'S, but by a concubine; he lives in a small bamboo house outside the fort, but has gold betel apparatus, the gift of the King of Siam, which is only given to chiefs of rank. He has twenty-eight wives, and told me with evident exultation that they were all taken prisoners by himself but one. He was chief of the *Dummys*, or licensed robbers, for many years,—a situation of some honor and danger, where the most barbarous system of border warfare is carried on with the most rancorous hatred, and where the State looks upon the prisoners taken by these treacherous midnight robbers as a principal source of its population.

“ I represented to CHOW HOUA the inconsistency of the friendly expressions towards us, whilst the very object of my visit, from which they ought certainly to expect much advantage, was defeated by prohibiting their people from purchasing the things they were anxious to be in possession of, from the few poor people who had accompanied me; that it was bad encouragement for future caravans on a larger scale; but to convince them we perfectly trusted in them, the merchants would remain till their things could be disposed of, and that I would give a note of their names and numbers.

“ 26th. I received a visit from CHOW HOUA to-day, the purpose of which was to induce me to remain here for two months, till the presents I had brought were sent to *Bankok*⁵⁸ and the King's sentiments known. I told him my reception had been such that I could have no objection to remain twelve months, but that the purpose of my visit had been to assure them of our friendly disposition towards them, and open a friendly communication between *Maulamyne* and the *Shan* country; that we had been on the most friendly terms from time immemorial with the King, or I could not have been sent to any of his allies or dependencies; that they were now aware of our sentiments and our anxiety to be at peace with all our neighbours, and that I wished to return on Sunday the 31st.

“ 29th. Paid my second visit to CHOW-TCHE-WEET to-day, who sent in the morning to say he would be glad to see me; I was received as before, but with less stiffness and more cordiality, and there were no armed people in the street. He repeated his declarations of friendship towards the English, which I see no room to doubt; and said the only reason we were not on the same terms as natives of the country, was the bad feeling of the *Zimmay* chief towards us, and

that they had sent to *Siam* to endeavour to bring him under the king's displeasure for having received me as he had.

“ I begged to know if CHOW-NI-MOI-KOIN and PONYA-TCHE would be allowed to accompany me, and told him I was anxious to start on Sunday 31st. He said in that case it would be impossible for them to accompany me, and hoped I would wait nine days, when every thing would be ready, and a lucky day, and they should then proceed along with me. After some consideration, I said that though my instructions were to return immediately, I would take on myself to remain. ‘ Then,’ said he, ‘ every thing is settled very soon; if you have any thing to ask or communicate, do it without reserve.’ I then produced the General's pass, which mentions 1100 people, though there are now scarcely 100 remaining, the others having escaped as opportunity offered; and asked what were his intentions regarding those people; and as I had little doubt of his refusing to liberate them, and I had no authority to demand them, I added, that as our friendship was sealed and they were apprehensive of the King of *Siam*, I did not wish to press their immediate release, but begged he would allow the heads of the villages now left (who was the person they had selected to bring the letter to *Maulamyne*) to accompany me, and communicate his case to the Commissioner, that from the constant and friendly intercourse we had with the King of *Siam*, and his having given up our people who were carried off from *Mergui*, I had no doubt of the result. He readily agreed to the man's accompanying me, but begged jocularly that I would not give him up to the Burmans, who were a thorn in their eye, which seemed a signal for the conversation to become general; amongst other things he told me he had 80 wives, 18 sons, and 16 daughters, of whom one is an inferior wife of the King of *Siam*, but has unfortunately no children; that his relations in the three towns amount to upwards of 700; that there were 30 guns in this town, and 40 in *Lagon* and *Zimmay* each; (a Burman prisoner here has offered to eat all above ten in the three places;) that there are 4,000 inhabitants in *Laboung*, 40 or 50,000 in each of the other towns:—this is also of course very much exaggerated. The people who accompanied here to-day, after many pros and cons, received an order to buy forty-two bullocks for carriage. A Chinese who is here (father-in-law to CHOW-TCHE-WEET) is to start to-morrow for *Zimmay*, to bring up some of the principal Chinese traders said to have arrived there, and I have strong hopes, from the enterprising character of the Chinese, they may be induced to visit the coast,

“ I was invited into the fort at 3 P. M. to an entertainment, and had the ceremony called “ *Pouk*”⁵⁹ performed; beyond which I am told there is no possible mark of friendship. It consisted in two old men saying a prayer of some length for long life, riches, and happiness to one of the English Chiefs of elephants and horses and conqueror of the Burmans, and tying seven threads of white cotton round my wrists: the latter ceremony was also performed by CHOW RAYA WOOD, the chief's elder brother, and by CHOW-NI-MOI-KOIN, and I returned the compliment to them. Two large bouquet of flowers, one ornamented with a number of thin silver plates, and some of the flowers being of very considerable but oppressive fragrance, were presented. Sweetmeats were also served up to me, and rice with various curries, both to the people who accompanied me and to the natives, in large silver bowls, to the number of probably fifty, varying in size

from a foot and a half to a few inches in diameter: the workmanship of many of those of the lesser size was remarkably good, nearly all gifts from the King of *Siam*; after which seven of the chiefs' wives danced to the music of the *Bankok* band, by which they set great store, and the music is certainly very pleasing. Many of the women possess a very considerable share of Asiatic beauty: their eyes in particular are large and expressive, without a trace of the Tartar; their skin remarkably fair, and had it not been for the little Burman nose, some of them would have been really handsome. There were probably not less than 300 people present—all the chiefs of *Laboung*, many of those of *Lagon*, but none from *Zimmay*.

“*February 8th.* I have at length prepared to start in the morning by the shortest and best route to *Maulamyne*. The only reason for not starting to-day is its being a *black* one, and it would be disrespectful to me, as well as dangerous to themselves, to begin a journey to-day. I took leave of the chief to-day, and have been allowed as an especial favor to buy one (and *CHOW-TCHE-WEET* has presented me with another) young female elephant, and sends one as a present to Mr. *MAINGY*.

“Had another visit from some *Zimmay* people to-day, who agree with the others as to the very friendly feeling of the people there towards us. They say they so fully expected me there, that houses have been ready for the last ten days. On taking leave of *CHOW HOUA* he gave me a rhinoceros horn, on which he seemed to set a great value, as a charm against every evil; and as I had expressed some impatience at their delays and suspicion, he begged I would not suspect them of any want of friendship in so long withholding permission to purchase bullocks and trade with their people; that our character was perfectly new to them; that they were like an elephant crossing the river;—they must feel before they proceeded; that their difficulty was now got over, they were aware of our intentions being good; and that we should now come there on the same terms as subjects of *Siam*.

“In proof of their sincerity and the trust thus reposed in us, *BEYNA-TCHE* would accompany me with 50 or 60 people, 2 or 300 cattle, and a number of elephants; that they all lived by trade or agriculture, and that some of the *CHOW'S* sons would certainly next year visit our settlement on the coast. He invited me to repeat my visit next dry season.”

On the 9th *Dr. R.* started on his return: he gives the following account of the route he took, which, until the 15th, was the same by which he had travelled on his way up.

“*15th.* Direction South, 30 West. Time, 4 hours; distance, 10 miles.

“*12. 35.* I started: most of the people having gone on before me.

“*1. 30.* Came amongst the hills and commenced to ascend.

“*2. 12.* Broke off from the old *Mein-lun-ghee* road, leaving it a little to the westward.—*2. 20.* Crossed the *May-papie* in a few inches of water; path narrow, through low bamboo jungle; hills range about south 70 west, north 70 east.—*3. 45.* Crossed the *May-Gnoot*⁶⁰ and halted on the western side in long grass; the bed of the stream rocky and wide 20 or 30 feet, with but little water at this season. Saw two wild cows and a tiger this evening.

“*16th.* Direction South, 50 West. Time, 6 hours; distance, 13 miles.

“*9.* March along the banks of the *May-Gnoot*, and continued to ascend with

few declivities ; the path rocky.—10. Rocky steep ascent for half an hour.—10. 55. Saw the first pine trees.—11. 30. Left the *May-Gnoot*.—1. 20. We entered pine forest, and no other tree is to be seen but a few stunted yews.—3. Halted on the N. E. bank of a small stream called the *May-lie*, which falls into the *May-ping* to the eastward ; the path has been pretty good, and though rocky in many places, I think less difficult than the *Mein-lun-ghee* road : it is the old road to *Martaban*⁶¹, and has been little frequented for the last seven years ; the rocks in all the high hills are granite of very dark colour externally. A good deal of thunder and rain this evening ; this halting place is famous for tigers ; several people have been carried off from it.

“ 17th. Direction South, 30 West. Time, 3 hours, 20 minutes ; distance, 11 miles.

“ 8. 30. Crossed the *May-lie*.—9. 30. Proceeded by a nearly level path along the top of a small connecting range of hills in a noble pine forest.—11. 30. Descended.—11. 50. Halted on the banks of a small stream, the *May-tome*⁶². Path remarkably good and nearly level for the last two and a half hours ; some of the pine trees measured eight or nine feet in circumference, and are much taller and straighter than the same trees in Europe.

“ 18th. Direction South, 45 West. Time, 3 hours, 15 minutes ; distance, 14 miles.

“ 8. 45. Crossed the *May-tome*, and continued along a good path ; descending for nearly half an hour.—9. 30. Crossed a small stream.—11. 15. Crossed another small stream, and ascended with occasional small descents till 10, when we halted on the southern bank of the *May-tuan*⁶³, running to the eastward.

“ The whole march to-day through the same fine open forest of pine ; the path good and the hills not at all steep. Shot a jungle cow to-day : these are abundant in some of the valleys near our route ; the flesh was harder than the worst buffalo. Tigers and the common deer are abundant.

“ 19th. I have been obliged to halt to-day to refresh the elephants, as the passes are said to be difficult and no forage for three days for them : (there are seventeen large and four small ones.) We are now on the site of an old city⁶⁴ formerly inhabited by Talines (to whom all the country to the westward formerly belonged) and more lately to the Shans, but has been deserted some years on account of the devastation committed by the Burmans ; the valley is of some few miles in extent, and through it runs the *May-tuan* river, which at this season is about two feet deep, and as it falls into the *May-ping*, was formerly navigable for small canoes to *Bankok* ; its course is extremely winding.

“ 20th. Direction South, 50 West. Time, 6 hours, 30 minutes ; distance, 30 miles.

“ 9. Ascended along a rugged bad path.

“ 10. 17. Descended. The firs which have been gradually diminishing in numbers through the whole of to-day's march, are now only to be seen in single trees towering above the other trees of the jungle.—3. 48. Halted in a ravine of very thick jungle on the west bank of the *May-tuan*, running to the northward.

“ The march to-day has been the longest as to time, the most toilsome and disagreeable since leaving *Maulamyne* ; the path has been either up or down steep hills, or along the bottom of ravines into which the sun can only shine a few

hours in the day ; and since half past ten through a thick jungle. Our course has been all round the compass, and I have been obliged to note its direction no less than eighty times to get at any thing like a correct general direction ; we are again on the banks of the river which we left this morning, the course of which is even more tortuous than the road we have come. We are encamped on a small level spot of a few hundred yards, surrounded by high hills ; the jungle extremely thick, but abounding on the hills with deer of all sizes, cows, buffaloes, tigers, leopards, and rhinoceros. We passed the end of the road, which runs more to the eastward, along which the bullocks are to come ; path is much better, but there are no inhabitants in that direction.

“ 21st. Direction South, 65 West. Time, 7 hours ; distance, 15 miles.

“ 9. 15. Proceeded along a narrow ascending path in thick jungle.—4. 45. Halted on the *May-Koung*⁶⁵, wide 30, deep 1½ feet, pebbly bed, a short way from *Kanoo*⁶⁶, a Careen village. The march to-day has been over a succession of hills, some of which were nearly perpendicular, and I should think almost impassable for a loaded bullock, though the elephants have travelled with ease. The path is well shaded, and there is abundance of water : indeed the jungle has generally been so thick that we could only see a little of the path before us, and a ravine or a hill close to the road ; the march on the whole was less disagreeable than yesterday, having been more on the hills. Between 10. 20, and 10. 40, passed a hill, on which there are a great many lofty cinnamon trees, the only ones known by the Careens to exist on any of the hills, and are not at all prized by them ; the bark is about two inches thick, and of good flavour, when fresh, but acquires a bitter taste when dry. Passed some immense trees, called by the Burmans *Couck-Moo*⁶⁷, of which the canoes are made ; said to be large enough to make a canoe for 5 or 600 baskets of paddy.

“ 22nd. Direction South, 40 West. Time, 2 hours, 30 minutes ; distance, 7 miles.

“ 9. Path pretty level ; jungle extremely close.—9. 20. Along the bed of the *May-Koung*, pebbly with large rolled mosses overhung by rocks 1 or 200 feet high.—10. Jack trees ; said to be the site of an old city.—11. 30. Halted in a thick jungle with some betel-nut trees on the western bank of the *May-Koung*. March nearly of the same character as the last two days, but the hills less steep.

“ 23rd. Direction South, 55 West. Time, 8 hours ; distance, 17 miles.

“ 8. 4. Ascended.—9. 10. Wound up the face of an extremely steep hill from east to west, in a southern direction ; and at 9. 20 ascended along the brow of the hill.—11. 40. Crossed the *May-Tia*⁶⁸, and proceeded along a ravine.—1. Recrossed the *Tia*.—4. 45. Halted on the east bank of the *May-Gnow*, wide 90 or 100 feet, running north, 20 west. The hills to-day, with the exception of those on the 21st, were as steep as any we have crossed ; and our progress slow and difficult ; some of the highest hills to-day had been cleared for paddy, and the ground is said to be productive. Met a *Zimmay* slave merchant returning by the route ; he had six slaves, three of whom are about five years of age, for each of whom he gave four bullocks.

“ 24th. We have been obliged to halt to-day till the old road between *Martaban*, and this, which has grown up from disuse, be a little cleared by the Careens for the next two marches, when it again joins the route followed by us in our march up one day from the *Thaung-Ein*.

"25th. Direction North, 80 West. Time, 2 hours, 30 minutes; distance, 7 miles and 4 furlongs.

"9. 45. Crossed the *May-Gnow* several times along a level road. At 10 passed a small Careen village, and left the *May-Gnow* to the northward. The Careens had cleared the path through long grass, along the banks and in the bed of the *May-Satang*⁶⁹, a small stream of a few inches deep. At 10. 15 halted on the banks of the *May-Satang*, in thick jungle with wild plantains. The path to-day has been nearly level down the course and across the valley of the *May-Gnow*.

"26th. Direction North, 65 West. Time, 3 hours; distance, 7 miles.

"9. 30. Proceeded along a pretty good path, crossing the *May-Satang*.—10. 45. Descended and crossed the *May-Satang*, the last time.—11. 40. Side of the hills less steep to-day than some parts of our march, but path very narrow on the brink of a precipice.—12. 30. Halted on the brow of the hill. The road which we have come to-day will be good when more frequented. Except a very steep hill at the beginning of the march, the Careens declare there is no better path through these hills. A considerable part of the march to-day was through an old paddy hill on which the trees had not yet acquired any size, and many of the other hills had been cultivated to their summits within the last year or two. The Careens in this part of the hills must, of course, be pretty numerous.

"27th. Direction South, 70 West. Time, 5 hours, 13 minutes; distance, 11 miles, 6 furlongs.

"9. 10. Started, and crossed several hills, or rather heights, on the hills.—2. Came on the paths we travelled on the way up.—2. 25. Halted at our former halting place on the banks of the *Seindzoy-Keum*⁷⁰. The path to-day has been good for elephants, and very passable for bullocks.

"28th. Direction South. Time, 6 hours, 40 minutes; distance, 12 miles.

"9. Crossed the *Seindzoy*, and proceeded along the path pursued on our way up.—1. Passed our old halting place on the *May-tha-woe*⁷¹.—3. 40. Halted at our former halting place on the banks of the *Thaung-Ein*⁷².

"The first half the march to-day, which was extremely distressing to the elephants from the steepness of the hills, was performed in two hours and a half on our march up, and took us four hours to-day. The last half of the march was more level along the little valley of the *May-thoe-woe*, which we crossed 8 or 10 times, and was performed in very little (10 minutes) more time than we took in the way up.

"*March 1st.* Halted to-day on the banks of the *Thaung-Ein*. To-morrow I shall proceed alone, and the Shans will wait for the remainder of the cattle on their own side of the river. The golden sword-bearer is to accompany me one march with four elephants.

"2nd. Direction South, 20 West. Time, 4 hours, 5 minutes; distance, 12 miles.

"10. Crossed the *Thaung-Ein* at an elephant's ford about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile above where we crossed before.—12. 10. Passed *Ween-Wee*⁷³, our old halting place.

"3. 5. Halted on the old ground at the top of the waterfall⁷⁴.

"The path for much the longer proportion of this march was good, and per-

fectly level; the elephants consequently proceeding rapidly, and were up with the people.

“3rd. Direction South, 20 West. Time, 4 hours, 20 minutes; distance, 10 miles.

“10. 20. Descended the waterfall.—1. 15. Reached the *Yum-byue*⁷⁵ river.—2. 45. Crossed the end of the *Yum-byue* path, by which we marched on our way up, and halted on the beginning of the *Dagyue*⁷⁶ path, near our former halting place.

“The descent of the waterfall was less difficult than I had anticipated. The bullocks left *Ween-Wee* this morning, and were up a short time after us. The road on this side of the *Thaung-Ein*, though still amongst the hills, is less mountainous than we have travelled between *Mein-Woot* and that river.

“4th. Direction South, 45 West. Time, 2 hours, 45 minutes; distance, 7 miles, 4 furlongs.

“9. Crossed the *Mian-Koung*⁷⁷, the path good but narrow, from not having been cut by the Careens.

“9. 45. The whole jungle of short bamboos intersected in all directions with elephants' tracks.—12. 30. Crossed the *Chline-Boye*⁷⁸ river, now with only a few inches water, but the bed of the river is 80 or 100 feet wide, with deep banks, probably 18 or 20 feet.—1. 10. Halted on the north bank of the *Kwee--Keung*⁷⁹ or buffaloe stream, 10 or 12 feet wide, running to the westward. The path to-day was particularly good and level, but not cleared for a few miles. Some of the people saw to-day a herd of 20 or 30 elephants, amongst which there were *several* males, and some young ones.

“5th. Direction South, 45 West. Time, 2 hours, 45 minutes; distance, 7 miles, 4 furlongs.

“9. Crossed the buffaloe stream and marched along a good level path.—11. Halted on the banks of the *Ou-ko*⁸⁰, after searching half an hour in vain for a path; the Careens who were sent for this morning at daylight have not yet arrived. The path to-day good, open and level, and, as yesterday, much intersected by elephants' tracks.

“This part of the country was formerly inhabited by the *Lowa-Talines*⁸¹, and the places still bear *Lowa* names; the same race extended to the *Moy-Toum*, before the country was devastated by the Burmans, whose blood-thirsty rapacity has depopulated the whole of this part of the ancient Taline kingdom.

“6th. Direction South, 30 West. Time, 4 hours, 15 minutes; distance, 12 miles, 2 furlongs.

“8. 30. Good path through open jungle and long grass.—11. Remains of Careen villages.—11. 20. Plains of considerable extent; marks of wild cattle.—12. 25. Halted in consequence of the jungle in advance being on fire.—1. 40. Proceeded, and at 2 halted on the south-western bank of the *Chline-Boye* (which falls in the *Gyne*⁸², a short distance in a South 70 East direction from this.) Such is the level nature of the country that some of the stream runs into the *Chline-Boye* in the beginning of the rains, and out of it after they have fairly set in. The bed of the *Chline-Boye*, which rises 20 or 25 feet in the rains, is here 80 or 100 feet wide, the water about knee-deep in some places, in others of greater depth, and frequented by alligators; and that of the *Chline-putty* about 30 wide and 25 deep: they were both choked up with fallen trees, and the latter dry at this season.

“The march to-day has been through a level country; the jungle open with long grass, and four or five small plains covered with small bamboos much cut up by the jungle cattle. Elephants’ tracks still intersecting in all directions. Saw some rhinoceros’ marks to-day; their feet are smaller than the elephants, toes more apart, and the nails longer;—sent off two sick people to proceed down the *Ghine* in boats, under charge of the head *Careen*.

“7th. Direction South, 20 East. Time, 2 hours, 30 minutes; distance, 7 miles.

“8. 30. Proceeded along a good path and level.—9. 30. Plain with long grass. At 10. 45 large plain and paddy stubble covered with upwards of two hundred buffaloes belonging to the *Careen* village of twenty-eight or thirty houses called *Twine-woot* or *Twine-bot*.—11. Halted at the end of a plain.

“8th. Direction South, 35 West. Time, 2 hours, 20 minutes; distance, 10 miles.

“10. 10. Proceeded along the level path, through a country of the same character as yesterday.—2. Bed of the *Tham-bou*⁸³ river.—2. 30. Halted at a broken bridge over the *Atsong*⁸⁴ river on the high road from *Martaban* to the town of *Gyne*, about ten miles from *Gyne*, and at an equal distance from *Domittha*⁸⁵, and within sound of the evening gun of *Maulamyne*. The town of *Gyne* was destroyed in a revolt of the *Talines* about twenty years ago.

“The road to-day good and level; very beautiful plains, less water than usual, but plenty for cattle and passengers.

“9th. Direction South, 20 West. Time, 6 hours; distance, 17 miles.

“8. 10. Route continues through level grassy plain with occasional patches of jungle.—11. 11. Paddy stubble.—2. 10. Halted near the *Thaung-thoo* village of *Naung-laung*⁸⁶, containing about thirty houses, and probably about 200 inhabitants: found here a body of about one hundred of the annual caravans of the *Shan-Gaung-bee*⁸⁷ Shans, who have been nearly four months on the road from their own country in the north. The road to-day level, and generally free from jungle, through plains of fine long grass. The path has been extremely tortuous, and for the last two hours most unnecessarily winding in all manner of directions through a plain of short grass or paddy stubble. The whole of the plains in this neighbourhood are covered with rich green grass, enough for the subsistence of an immense number of cattle throughout the dry season. The waters of the monsoon recede very late from this part of the country, and at that season boats pole across this plain to *Yam-soline*⁸⁸, and from thence up the creeks to *Shewe-Ghin*⁸⁹, and *Toungoo*⁹⁰.

“The path along the plain was much exposed to the sun, and many of the *Talines*, who suffer more from the sun than the natives of India, were ten hours on the march.

“10th. Direction North, 20 East. Time, 8 hours; distance, 26 miles.

“7. 15. Marched along the continuation of the plain till 1. 45, when we halted a few hours at *Dzadi-been*⁹¹.—6. 30. From this proceeded in boats to *Maulamyne*, where we arrived at 9. 20 P. M.

[To be continued.]