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Letter from Dr. Cayley to Sir Henry Rawlinson

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presently mention. In the notes to the same edition of 'Marco Polo' the word Peyn is also given as Poin or Poin. Now Poin is in the broad Andijani dialect for Pâ-een. I asked my informant, who spoke this dialect, and who had travelled from St. Petersburg to Oorumchee, and from Siberia to Khiva, whether this 'Pain Mulk' was inhabited. 'Not now,' he said. Formerly there were cities, but they have been buried by the sands of the desert. One of these cities, about seven days' journey from Khoten, is mentioned by Johnson, and my informant told me he had been there and had seen *tea* dug out of the ruins and brought for sale in the market of Yarkand. Takla Makan is, in fact, only another name for Marco Polo's province of Peyn.

"This leads me to touch on another point, the identification of *Bolor*. Colonel Gardiner, whom I met at Srinagur, said Bolor was nothing more nor less than 'Bâlâ,' High (land): Bala is the Persian for high (or height, 'bâlâi'). I did not at the time push the subject with him; but, on meeting with an Andijani Tajik, who had been sent to escort us from Sanju to Yarkand, I observed that in his broad dialect he pronounced the word Bala as 'bolor.' Now if Marco Polo's Pegn means 'low land,' his Bolor may mean 'high land.' This, I confess, is more natural to my mind than making Bolor a corruption of 'Belut Tagh.' But does my supposition help us to fix the locality of Bolor? Marco Polo gives this name to the region over which he passed for 40 days after crossing the Pamir, and before he reached Kashgar.

"All this country is, according to Colonel Gardiner, 'highland,' and called 'Bâlâ Mulk,' or, as pronounced by my Andijani friend, 'Bolor Mulk.'

"As regards the desert of Lop, that undoubtedly is what we know as the desert of Gobi; and all the same stories told by Marco Polo, of evil spirits and strange noises, were retailed to me by my informant. There were cities on the edge of the desert, which have been destroyed by the sands. The people who live on the borders of Lake Lop are said to live on fish, and are dressed in garments made from the bark of trees. This betokens the vicinity of forests of some kind; but on this point my information is not reliable.

"Tanguth is a name still known, and is applied to the country about Karashahr. On this point, however, Mr. Shaw has made inquiries, which I leave him to communicate.

"I think the population of Yarkand has been put at far too high a figure, as 120,000. I should say that 40,000 was the very outside number. Karghalik, which, I believe, has been credited with a population of ten or twelve thousand, has, I should say, at the very utmost, 3000. I have invariably noticed that numbers are greatly exaggerated by natives, and often enough by Europeans.

"I am very sorry we were not able to reach Kashgar; but some future envoy will, I trust, be more fortunate, and will send you more valuable information than I, with my limited opportunities and powers, have been able to give."

Letter from DR. CAYLEY to SIR HENRY RAWLINSON.

"MY DEAR SIR HENRY,

"Lé, Ladák, 20th Sept., 1870.

"You may be interested to hear the latest news of the Mission to Yarkand, sent this summer by Lord Mayo, in return for the visit of the Atalik's envoy, Mirzi Shadi, who came to India last winter, and went to Calcutta to prefer his master's requests with the Viceroy.

"The Yarkand Expedition, consisting of Mr. Forsyth, Dr. Henderson, and Mr. Shaw—the latter joining the party in Ladák early in July, after a very rapid journey from England—accompanied by Mirza Shadi and Yakúb Khan, brother-in-law of the Atalik, after many delays in Cashmere, passed through

Ladák early in July. I accompanied them as far as the Changchenmo Valley, and then went on ahead by a different route, in order to explore the upper, southern, branch of the Karakash River, discovered two years ago by Mr. Hayward, and see if an easier and shorter route could not be found leading to Shadula, the frontier fort of Yarkand. I rejoined the Yarkand party on the Karakash, four marches above Shadula. After I left them, Forsyth's camp met with what might have proved very serious disasters on the road. The Wazir of Ladák went with the camp as far as Changchenmo, and then said that everything was ready, and Forsyth started on the 2nd March from Changchenmo. Just at the worst part of the road, where there is no grass, he found that no barley had been sent for the horses, and the wretched animals, originally quite unfit for the journey, died wholesale. In three days they lost nearly a hundred ponies, and very nearly had to turn back; but, by leaving half the camp behind, Forsyth was able to push on, and reached Shadula all right. A few days later, when too late, the Wazir sent on no end of yaks laden with grain, and, as a matter of course, a great number—some two or three hundred—died on the road; yaks being quiet unsuited for that kind of journey.

"We reached Shadula on the 5th of August, and there heard for the first time that the Atalik was absent, with all his forces, on a hostile expedition against the Tunganis in Kuchar and Turfan; and, it was said, as far as Orumchi. This news had been so carefully suppressed, that in Ladák nothing was known of it, or Forsyth would not have gone on. Only one man had reached Ladák since the winter, and he did not breathe a word of any disturbance having occurred; but said the Atalik was at Kashgar, as usual. None of the merchants were allowed to start until Forsyth reached Yarkand territory, and, though several of them had tried to send letters to me in Ladák, the messengers were all stopped on the road. The man who did come over, and brought letters from the Dád Khwáh of Yarkand, of course told the envoy Mirza Shadi; but he kept it dark. He is a typical Andijani at telling lies. At Shadula he assured Forsyth that the Atalik was on his way back, having destroyed all his enemies, and would be in Kashgar in a few days, though this was all false.

"The course of events in Yarkand during the last few months has been as follows:—Early in March last all the available troops in Yarkand, Khotan and other places were ordered to proceed in haste to Mural Bashi, five stages east of Kashgar, where the Kashgar troops had already gone, and a few days afterwards the Atalik himself joined the army. This was on account of some intelligence received from Aksu and Kuchar. After reviewing the troops at Mural Bashi, the Atalik distributed pay, clothing, &c., and marched on to Aksu six stages. Here there was a little fighting, the people of the city having a plot formed in Khotan among the Mullahs to raise a revolt and seize the fort, but the outbreak was at once put down and a few hundreds executed.

"On my return from Shadula I followed an entirely new route for great part of the way, and which turned out by far the shortest and best route in every way between the Changchenmo Valley and Shadula. From the latter place I crossed the mountain range south of the Karakash, and then traversed the great Maliksha Plain, lying between that range and the Karakoram, to its south-east corner, where I found a very easy pass into the basin of the Upper Karakash. I then followed up this river for two marches to Kiziljilga (see Hayward's map), and from there continued south up the main branch of the river to where it turns due west, and from thence I crossed two easy passes, with a plain of about 10 miles across between them, into the Changchenmo watershed. The distance from Maliksha to Gogra, in Changchenmo, was nine easy marches, generally along sheltered valleys, and only at one halting-place was there no fuel and grass. Almost everywhere along the whole road they

were most abundant, and water was most plentiful the whole way. I think Forsyth will return by this route, and I have sent men to show him the way. None of the maps of the country are quite right. Hayward's is nearly so, but he did not follow up the Karakash above Kiziljilga, and between that point and the head-waters of the Changchenmo the country has never been regularly mapped; but I hope to have a correct map of this region ready in a short time.

"There is a report here which came from Cashmir that Hayward has been murdered in Chitral. It is a mere rumour, and very likely entirely false and without foundation; and I heartily hope it is. I have written to Cashmir to try and find out if anything has been heard there. I hope his friends may not hear of it, should it be false. I cannot help feeling anxious, as he had with him a good deal of property, and the people of those regions do not much regard human life.

"Believe me yours very truly,
"HENRY CAYLEY."

Second Meeting, 29th November, 1870.

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