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The Band-i-Amir Lakes and Moore's Bendemeer

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Band-i-Amir Lakes and Moore's Bendemeer.*

IN the article on Captains Maitland and Talbot's journeys in Afghanistan, in the February number of the 'Proceedings' (p. 104), it is said that, "An excursion was made to the celebrated Band-i-Amir lakes, which are mentioned by the poet Moore," in the following passage :—

"There's a bower of roses by Bendemeer's stream,  
And the nightingale sings round it all the day long;  
In the time of my childhood 'twas like a sweet dream,  
To sit in the roses and hear the birds' song."

The writer of the article forgets that to reach Moore's "Bendemeer's stream," not "lakes," one must go to Persia, to the neighbourhood of Shíráz. Moore, in a footnote to the passage referred to, says it is "a river which flows near the ruins of Chilminar."

In fact, the Band-i-Amír referred to in the article in the 'Proceedings'—which also is known by another name, and will be described in my 'Notes on Afghánistán,' as soon as they are allowed to see the light—has nothing whatever to do with "that bower on the banks of the calm Bendemeer!" of Lalla Rookh. The "river," so-called, of Moore's poem, was a *band* or dyke, but not a *band* in the usual acceptation of that word as used in India, but a stone structure of considerable architectural beauty, "the like of which," the Muhammadan historians say, "the world did not contain," erected over the river Kur, near the city of Shíráz, for the purpose of irrigating the numerous gardens and vineyards in the plain north-west of the city, in which there literally were "bowers of roses," and also for drinking purposes.

It was the munificent work of the great Amír, 'Uzd-ud-Daulah, Abú-Shujá'-i-Kai-Khusrau, the Buwiah or Dilamí, sovereign of Fars, and who caused many other works of public utility to be erected. He came to the throne in 338 H. (949-50 A.D.), and died in 372 H. (982-83 A.D.).

It is dangerous to jump at conclusions, in geographical and historical matters especially, from an apparent similarity in names.

H. G. RAVERTY,  
Major.

The Secretary, R.G.S.  
11th March, 1887.

*The Lengths of the Greatest Rivers.*

CAIUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,  
Feb. 17th, 1887.

IN connection with General Tillo's estimates of the lengths of great rivers, given in the 'Proceedings' for the present month, it may be interesting to notice the different results we obtain as to their relative lengths, when the minor windings of the streams are left out of consideration. Not only will the order of length of the eight rivers given be greatly altered, but the rivers themselves included in the list will be different. And, indeed, by so doing we obtain a more correct idea of their comparative importance, since the lengths obtained will correspond more nearly with the extent of country drained, or, at any rate, with the extent of their basins from source to mouth. It seems unsatisfactory that a river should take a high place on the list from mere accidental circumstances which cause it to take a tortuous course.

The proportion which the true length of a river bears to that of its general course