

Around Shi-kho there are six fortresses; of these two are guarded by 500 Chinamen, and by 500 other troops, partly from Kuldja, partly from its environs, most of them being refugees. The garrison of two others of these fortresses consists of 1000 men, partly Manchus, partly Mongols; while the last two are occupied by Kalmüks. The chief command is in the hands of Shu-Amban, a Manchu, and Su-Amban, a Kalmük. The regular army usually lies in Shi-kho, and is occupied in watching the border. It is reported that a concentration, on a larger scale, of the regular army, commanded by two officers—Shushu-gun and Djinditun—is going to take place at Suzanza. Otherwise the Chinese keep strictly on the defensive. In regard to their future plans of campaign, it is stated that those stationed at Barkul and Kamul will soon be set in motion towards Kashgar, while others are preparing to march against the Tungans of Urumtsi and Manassi. The Chinese seem to be willing to extend their propaganda even among the Buddhist Kalmüks, subject to Russia; if so, they are labouring under a grave mistake, for wherever the Russian bear has planted his paw, there the Chinese dragon will never find a foothold.

A. VÁMBÉRY.

Captain Trotter on the Drainage of the Pamir.—Captain Trotter's geographical memoir, prepared to accompany Sir Douglas Forsyth's report on the recent Kashgar mission, is now passing through the press. In his journey over the Little Pamir he ascertained that the lake on this table-land, called Barkut Yassin by the Mirza, is one of the sources of a river which is called here the Aksú, and afterwards the Murghábi, and which joins the Oxus near Wámar, and is in all probability the principal source of that river, as has already been conjectured by Colonel Yule. The furthest point reached by Captain Trotter to the west is Kila Panja; but fortunately he was able to send one of his native surveyors down the Panja River for a considerable distance. The man first went to Ishkashim, so far travelling along a route which is well known from the journals of Wood and the Mirza, and then struck northwards into a region that was altogether unknown, and followed the downward course of the Panja River for a distance of nearly 100 miles, finding its direction to be in reality very different from what has hitherto been conjectured and represented on the best maps of these regions. He reached Kila Wámar, in Roshán, but was unable to go down the river any further. An exploration has, however, been since made from Fyzabad and Koláb up the river, to a point which is believed to be at no great distance from Kila Wámar, by Colonel Montgomerie's Havildar, who is now returning from Kabul with his journals. He writes that he has suffered great hardships, and lost some of his papers; but if enough evidence is forthcoming to determine the course of the Oxus from Kila Wámar down to the plains of Koláb, a problem which is of the highest importance both politically and geographically will be solved.

Captain Burton on the Outlet to Tanganyika.—In his interesting geographical notes, published in the *Pall Mall Gazette* on March 25th, Captain Burton, speaking of Lieutenant Cameron's discoveries, says—"The gallant young explorer has so thoroughly surveyed and fixed not only the details, but the trend and shape of that great reservoir, that he amply

deserves to be entitled SECOND DISCOVERER OF THE TANGANYIKA." Captain Burton at present inclines to the opinion that the Lukuga outlet is a surplus drain, acting mainly during the period of inundation, and becoming an influent during the dry season.

Darien.—The cessation of the pearl fishing has made it a matter of great importance to the State of Panama, with reference to the continuance of commercial prosperity, that some other product of equal value, and for which there is a constant demand, should be discovered on the isthmus. Hence the extraction and export of *caucho* (India-rubber) is receiving much attention. The trees are found in great abundance in the territories of the Darien Indians, but these independent tribes are inclined to obstruct the work of the *caucheros* or India-rubber collectors, and to resist an entrance into their forests. The New Granada Congress has authorized the Government to station a force of national troops in Darien, to protect the *caucho* industry, but they have not yet arrived. Meanwhile the merchants engaged in the trade have sent about 300 labourers up the Darien River in boats, to a place on the Chucunaque, where they will be stationed, and whence they will occupy and work certain localities as far up as the river Chucurti, an affluent of the Chucunaque. The *caucho* trees (belonging to the genus *Castilloa*) are said to abound in dense groups in the forests drained by the head waters of the Chucunaque and Chucurti; and so long as the tapping of the trees is done on an intelligent principle, and under due superintendence, the supply will be inexhaustible.

Correspondence.

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THE ETYMOLOGY OF "TURKMAN."

To the Editor of the "GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE."

SIR,—There seems to be an almost common consent among the authors of our standard books upon the history of Central Asia in regard to the etymology of the name Turcoman or Turkman, and yet I believe it to be ill-founded and even to have confused our knowledge of the ethnography of Central Asia very much.

The etymology generally followed is the one given by Raschid-ud din, the court historiographer of the great Ilkhan of Persia, Gazan Khan, and also by Mirkhond. They tell us that the name is not an old name, and that before the Turks came in contact with the Persians, and while they yet wandered in their own steppes, they were known simply as Turks, each tribe having its own specific name, but Turk being the generic title of all. When they began to cross the Jaxartes into Mavera ul nehr and Persia, and began to have children there, these acquired the look and appearance of the indigenous Tajiks. The latter thereupon gave their new neighbours the name of Turkman *i.e.*, "Resembling Turks" (see Erdmann's *Temudschin der Unerschutterliche*, page 42, note 1). This etymology, which has a very eastern look, will not bear much criticism. If Turkman had not been the indigenous name used by the Turcomans themselves, but a name merely applied to them by the Persians, it might have been reasonable, but that a very important and numerous race, consisting of many tribes, should adopt such an extraordinary name as "Resembling Turks" is incredible. To the Turkmans their Turkish descent and Turkish idiosyncrasies are matters of immense pride, and this being so, that they should proclaim themselves a bastard and a mongrel race, and adopt a name which would compromise the purity of their descent, is quite