

secuted his preparations against the Persians. And then he summoned Zemarchus and his party, and when they had presented themselves he renewed his declarations of friendship for the Romans and gave them their dismissal homewards, sending also with them another embassy. Now Maniach the leader of the former embassy was dead, and the name of the one next in rank was Tagma, with the dignity of *Tarchan*.¹ So this personage was sent by Dizabulus as ambassador to the Romans, and along with him the son of the deceased, I mean of Maniach. This was quite a young fellow, but he had succeeded to his father's honours, and obtained the next place in rank to Tagma Tarchan.* * * *

"Now when the rumour spread through Turkey² and among the neighbouring nations how ambassadors from the Romans were among them, and were going back to Byzantium accompanied by a Turkish embassy, the chief of the tribes in that quarter sent a request to Dizabulus that he might be allowed also to send some of his own people to see the Roman state. And Dizabulus granted permission. Then other chiefs of the tribes made the same petition, but he would grant leave to none except the Chief of the Choliatae. So the Romans taking the latter with them across the River OECH, after a long journey came to that huge wide lagoon.³ Here Zemarchus halted for three days and sent off George, whose business it was to carry expresses, to announce to the Emperor the return of the party from the Turks. So George with a dozen Turks set out for Byzantium by a route which was without water, and altogether desert, but was the shortest way. Zemarchus then travelled for twelve days along the sandy shores of the Lagoon, and having to cross some very difficult places, came to the streams of the River ICH,⁴ and then to the DAICH,⁵ and then by other swampy tracts to the ATTILA,⁶ and then again to the land of the UGURS.⁷ And these sent to say that four thousand Persians were stationed in ambuscade in the bush about the River KOPHEN⁸ to lay hands on the party as it passed," etc., etc.

Zemarchus escapes the Persians, and after visiting the chief of the ALANS gets to the Phasis, and so to Trebizond, whence he rode post to Byzantium. (From *Müller's Fragmenta Histor. Græc.*, iv, p. 235.)

¹ See p. 287 *infra*.

² "Κατὰ τὴν Τουρκίαν."

³ If this was the Aral we may suppose the Oech to be the Sir or Jaxartes. But this is scarcely consistent with the position assigned to the Chliatae.

⁴ Probably the *Emba*. It appears to be called *Tic* by Sharifuddin (*P. de la Croix*, ii, 95, 129).

⁵ The Ural or *Iaik*, called by Constantine Porphyrogenitus Γεῆχ (*De Administ. Imper.*, cap. xxxvii).

⁶ The *Athil* or Wolga.

⁷ On these Ugors see Vivien St. Martin in *N. Annales des Voyages* for 1848, iv.

⁸ *Kuban* I presume.