

had preceded me a few years before on the route I purposed to follow....» And Wilson adds: »Mir Izzet Ullah was sent by Mr. Moorcroft, in 1812, to explore the route to Bokhara, via Yarkand.» In 1812 Moorcroft was at Manasarovar. The question would not be of any consequence, were it not for getting a sure date of his passing the Kumdan Glaciers. At any rate we find that Mir Izzet Ullah had been at Yarkand once a few years before 1819, *i. e.* about 1812, and once during Moorcroft's stay in Leh from September 1820—September 1822.

It was on his journey of 1812 he wrote his diary, for Wilson says:<sup>1</sup> »In the year 1812, Mir Izzet Ullah, a servant of the enterprising and enlightened traveller Mr. Moorcroft, was dispatched on a preparatory tour to those countries which Mr. Moorcroft purposed to visit at a favourable period. Izzet Ullah travelled from Delhi to Kashmir, from Kashmir to Tibet, from Tibet to Yarkand, from Yarkand to Kashgar, thence to Kokan, from Kokan to Samarkand, thence to Bokhara, Balkh, and Khulm, and from Khulm to Kabul by way of Bamian, whence he returned to the plains of Hindustan.»

From this Mohammedan pioneer's narrative we are told that the river Shayok »rises in a mountain between Tibet and Yarkand,» and this mountain is Kara-korum, as we know. About Ladak we are told: »In Kashmir they called the country Buten and the people Bot; and in Persian and Turkish the country is called Tibet, the word Tibet signifying in Turki shawl-wool, which is procured here most abundantly, and of the finest quality.»

Of the heading: »From Tibet to Yarkand», Wilson says: »This part of Izzet Ullah's route is entirely new, as Marco Polo and the missionary Goez who visited Yarkand, both went by a different route, or through Badakhshan. The other missionaries who penetrated to Lé, turned off thence to Lassa.» These are DESIDERI and FREYRE. As I have mentioned above,<sup>2</sup> Wilson also knew Yefremoff's journey.

In Wilson's translation it is said that Mir Izzet Ullah »arrived at Lé on the 30th of October 1812,» and a few lines lower down that he »left Lé on the 26th of October, and set off for Yarkand». One of these dates is wrong unless he stayed over a year in Leh. It is, however, important to have the season of the year.

He takes the road of Diger and comes down to Shayok. »In summer time the road to Yarkand is by Nobra, for the lower levels are rendered impassable by melting of the snows.» His description of the road and its crossing the river at so many places, is very good. He mentions some names which are still, after 100 years, in use, as *f. i.* Chong Jangal and Kefer Khaneh. At Dong Ba-ilak<sup>3</sup> he saw »a rock of marble, which extended for a gunshot, that terminated in a striped rock like Sulimani stone». So he even made some geological observations!

<sup>1</sup> *Journal Royal Asiatic Society*, l. c., p. 284.

<sup>2</sup> *Vide p. 108, n. supra.*

<sup>3</sup> Dung-balik?