

The names Mandalik and Kotak lak (Köteklik) are still in use. »This is one of the feeders of the Shayuk, which river here loses this appellation, and is called the River of Khamdán,» — in which we recognize Kumdan. Then follows Chong Tash and he observes an opening to the left, »turning towards the south, passing through which a mountain is crossed. They call that road of Sisar.» VIGNE, proceeding to the head of the Nubra valley, later on mentions the Saser route, confirming MIR IZZET ULLAH.

What he says of Khamdán (Kumdan) is of interest. His station was on the river, so that the glacier seems to have been unusually far back. »On our left hand between the south and west is a mountain of ice, which remains unmelted throughout the year. They say it is two hundred cos in extent, and on one side is Tibet Balti, and on the other Serkul, on the boundaries of Badakhshan. From Kashmir to Yarkand, through Balti, it is a journey of twenty-five days, three of which are over this glacier, and it is, therefore, rarely travelled. There is said to be also a shorter road, avoiding the icy mountain, but the people of Tibet keep it a secret. Large blocks of ice, some of a spiral form, were lying about the station: perhaps the place derives its name from this, Kham, a spire or curl. They say that this ice shifts, for the people of the country observe that a particular stone, which at one season is on the side, is after some time observable at the summit of the mountain. Moreover the water which bubbles at the lower part having become ice, pushes up and takes the place of the ice above it. In some places the colour of the glacier is white, in some it is of the colour of jasper (jade), in some like water, and others like the sky.»

ELPHINSTONE notices that Mir Izzet Ullah regards the Khamdán as a separate mountain of ice, and Wilson infers »that the glacier here met with, is in fact part of the Mustak range». None of them had visited the place.<sup>1</sup>

The way to Yápchán goes »on both sides the river; the road was irregular, and the snow lay a foot and a half thick».

So much seems clear from Mir Izzet Ullah's description, that he did not at all come in contact with the ice. But as the road was on both sides of the river it seems to have been cut in some places by the projecting snouts of the Kumdan Glaciers. If he had touched the ice anywhere he should have mentioned the ice instead of the snow. At any rate the Kichik Kumdan stood at his visit, in 1812, farther back than I found it 90 years later or in 1902.

<sup>1</sup> KLAPROTH has payed special attention to this passage and quotes Elphinstone's view in the following words. »Ce lieu devrait donc être plutôt au sud-ouest qu'au sud-est, et le mot de mechrek (est) peut être une erreur de copiste. Elphinstone parle de ce passage du journal d'Izzet Ullah. Il observe que ce voyage décrit le glacier de Khamdán, non pas comme faisant partie de la chaîne de montagnes, mais comme étant un mont de glace séparé et situé à gauche de la route, à deux journées avant d'arriver à Kara-korum et s'étendant à 200 coss du Tubet Baltu à Sarikol.» *Magasin Asiatique*, Tome II, Paris 1826. *Voyage dans l'Asie Centrale*, par Mir Izzet Ullah, en 1812, p. 21.