

Raja's letter showed, there are few Asiatic rulers who, if they have the *power* to subdue a weaker neighbour, will not as a perfectly natural course proceed to bring that neighbour under subjection. This is looked upon by most Asiatics as a quite normal and inevitable proceeding. Naturally, therefore, the Tibetans would assume that it would only be a matter of time before the English Governor of Bengal would attack Tibet. He had the power to subdue the country; he would therefore subdue it. In the first instance he would, of course, send up an agent to spy out the land, to see what it was worth, and to find out the best way into it; and such an agent doubtless Bogle was, in their opinion. It was inevitable, therefore, that Bogle should be viewed with suspicion, and that the Tibetans should not, at the first jump off, throw their country freely open to trade. How much wiser, in their opinion, would be the views of some shrewd old counsellor who said: "Keep the English at a distance; don't let one into our country; stay behind our mountain barrier and have nothing whatever to do with anyone beyond it. This is the 'ancient custom.' Do not let us depart from it. Let us be civil to this Bogle now he is here, lest we offend his powerful master, but for God's sake let us get rid of him as soon as we can, and put every polite difficulty we know of in the way of any other Englishman coming amongst us."

We can imagine how sound such an opinion would seem to the generality of the old greybeard's hearers, and how difficult it would be for anyone—even the Tashi Lama—to contend against it. And with such a feeling in existence Bogle could not do more than produce a favourable personal impression, and put in an argument or two, whenever he had the opportunity, to show that there were also some *advantages* in having relationship with the English, in the hopes that these arguments might gradually sink into the Tibetan mind, and when the opportunity should arise, bring forth fruit. And this much he did most effectively in carrying out the Governor's policy.