

CHAPTER XXII

NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA

WE had settled with Tibet direct, as was Lord Curzon's chief object, and it had been proposed that China should sign what was styled an Adhesion Agreement, formally acknowledging the Tibetan Treaty. But Yu-tai, the Resident at Lhasa, was instructed not to sign any such agreement, and a Special Envoy was sent by the Chinese Government to Calcutta to treat with the Indian Government in the matter. Yu-tai himself had been specially deputed for these negotiations regarding Tibet, but apparently he was considered too complacent, and first of all, Mr. Tang, and then Mr. Chang, were sent to Calcutta, and from now onwards the Chinese showed first great diplomatic insistence, and then great military activity, in regard to Tibet, till, profiting by the jealousy between us and the Russians, which had prevented our reaping all the fruits of the Mission to Lhasa, they one by one gathered those fruits themselves.

Nothing resulted from Mr. Tang's visit to India, and ill-health caused him to return to China. But on April 27, 1906, in place of an Adhesion Agreement, a Convention was signed at Peking between Great Britain and China which "confirmed" the Lhasa Convention of 1904. In addition, Great Britain engaged "not to annex Tibetan territory, or to interfere in the administration of Tibet"; while the Chinese Government undertook "not to permit any other foreign State to interfere with the territory or internal administration of Tibet." We were entitled to lay down telegraph-lines to connect the trade-marts with India. And it was laid down that the provisions of the