

fair idea of the resistance at first opposed to the establishment there of the new religion. We may now return from this digression to review the part played by this family in the politics of the country adjoining it on the west before proceeding to follow up the course of events that again bring us to the theatre of action at Káshghar.

P.

On the death of Bughra Khán at Bukhára, the fugitive Abúl Kásim returned, and was re-established in the government by Subuktakin, the ruler of Ghazni, who then passed westward to the conquest of Nishábor and Herat. Meanwhile Iylik Khán, the son of Bughra Khán, from Káshghar repeatedly invaded Bukhára against Abúl Kásim, until he was finally defeated by Subuktakin, and peace restored. Abúl Kásim died 387 H. = 997 A.D. and was succeeded by his son, Abúl Hárith Mansúr. He was soon blinded by a rival noble in favour of his brother, Abdul Malik who, too, was a mere youth. He was for a while supported against the hostility of Mahmúd, the son of Subuktakin, by Begtakin and Faik, but was ultimately driven to seek refuge with Iylik Khan at Káshghar, who then himself marched to Bukhára, and threw Abdúl Malik and the rest of his family into prison, 389 H. = 999 A.D.

V.B.

Abdúl Malik died in prison, but his brother, Muntazir, a third son of Abúl Kásim, effected his escape, and attempted the recovery of Bukhára. Iylik Khan, however, whose empire now extended from the borders of China to the Caspian, drove him from the country into Khurásán. From there he wandered into Sístán, where he was killed by some petty robbers, Rabí Awwal 395 H. = 1004 A.D.

With the death of Muntazir ended the Sámání dynasty, which had, from 260 H. = 873 A.D., during a period of one hundred and thirty years, ruled over all Central Asia, and founded the Islám polity there on the orthodox *Sunní* model.

The Uighúr, who under their Chief Iylik Khan, rose to power during the declining years of the Sámání rule, did not long enjoy their career of prosperity. Iylik Khan had his capital at Káshghar, and only held Bukhára during the last years of the Sámání rule. Jand, a fertile country, eighty *farsakh* = "league" from Bukhára, was seized by Saljúk, a partizan of the deposed Muntazir, who now became independent. He was the son of Tomak, and had been expelled from the northern steppe with Súbásh, the General of the Prince Begú. With their following and new adherents they settled in the vicinity of Bukhára. Here the grandsons of Saljúk, Toghrul and Chákar, warred with Iylik Khan, and after his death, with the Bughra Khan family of Káshghar.

Alitakin, the ruler of Samarcand, in alliance with Iylik Khan, quarrelled and warred with Kádir Khán, the son of Bughra Khán. On this Mahmúd marched to the latter's aid, and, driving out Alitakin, protected Kádir from Saljúk and other enemies. In 524 H. = 1129 A.D. Sultán Sanjar seized Samarcand, and carried its Governor, Muhammad bin Sulemán, prisoner to Khurasán, but afterwards reinstated him. Subsequently in 534 H. = 1139 A.D. Khwáhrizm Shah captured Bukhára, destroyed its fort, and killed Ali Khalícat, the Governor of Sultán Sanjar. And again, following this, the next year Samarcand revolted under Ahmad, and Sultán Sanjar, subduing it, appointed Nasr, the son of Ahmad, to its government; but this led to more war, and the decline of the Sanjar rule. For at this time the government of the Uighúr had passed into the hands of Gorkhán.

N.

V.B.

Gorkhán = Khánán Khán, Lord of Lords, was the title of the King of the Kará Khitáy, a people who came originally from Khitá, the northern provinces of the Chinese empire. They were at first a party of eighty emigrant families, who, on leaving their own country, found a refuge amongst the border Kirghiz. They soon, however, disagreed with these nomads, and moving on gradually made their way to Ayl or Ila, where they built a city. Here they were joined by a number of Turk wanderers, and their number soon exceeded forty thousand families. On the death of their first Gorkhán, his widow, Goyánik, assumed the government, but, owing to her profligacy, was soon deposed by her late husband's brother, who then succeeded to the government by the murder of a rival brother. And he, on his death, was succeeded by his son as Gorkhán.

R.S.