

T.S. and meeting, was visited by a severe nightmare, and taking the dream as a bad omen, at once struck his camp and hastened back by Marghinán to Khokand whence, after a halt of fourteen days, he set out for his own capital, taking Sultán Murád with him. On the departure of this Bukhárá army, with which he had returned from his exile, Yákúb Beg *Koshbegi*, Bátor Culí *Shagháwul*, and Mirzá Ahmad *Koshbegi*, with several *Pánsad* officers and others, joined Alím Culí. On this Muzaffaruddín halted at Surkhsú, and sent Sultán Murád back to Khokand as Khán. But, as he could not hold the place, he left it after a week, and accompanied by Abdúlla *Pánsad* went to join Alím Culí. On arrival at Osh they were met by Tásh Khoja *Hudáychi* from Alím Culí, and he, according to his orders, killed Sultán Murád and took Abdúlla back with him to his master who robed him and took him into his own service.

From Osh Alím Culí moved to Yár Mazár, and halting a week held a consultation with his adherents, and by their consent decided on bringing Syad Sultán Beg, the son of Mallah Khán, from Namangán and setting him up as Khán, with himself as his minister.

Syad Sultán, on assuming the government, sent Yákúb Beg as *Mír* to the Kuramma Fort, and himself marched with Alím Culí to Khokand whence Khudáyár retreated to Jizzák. He here collected the relics of his deserted army, and from amongst their chiefs sent Ming Báý and Nar Muhammad *Lashkarbásh*, and several *Pánsad* officers, with a force to secure Khujand which, with the aid of Yákúb Beg from Kuramma with his contingent, they took after a siege of ten days, the Governor Dost Muhammad, Karácalpák, escaping to Bukhárá. Alím Culí arrived there a few days later, and appointing Mirzá Ahmed *Koshbegi* to the government, set out for Táshkand by Kuramma, where he was entertained by Yákúb Beg.

At Táshkand Alím Culí was the guest of the Governor Suliman Khoja, but suspecting his fidelity he killed him, and re-established Nar Muhammad, the brother-in-law of Yákúb Beg, in the government; he returned then to Khokand by Kiláochí, from which he summoned Yákúb Beg to join him, and sent Hydar Culí, Kapchák, to take his place at Kuramma.

Whilst these events were following one the other in Khokand, much more important changes were enacting in the countries bordering to the north and east. In the former direction the Russians were steadily pushing on from Uch Almá Atá or Almáti (or Fort Vernoe, as their great military post on the north of Isigh Kol is called). They took Awliyá Atá or Aulieta on the 16th June 1864, and Hazrat Turkistán on the 24th of the same month. From the latter the Governor, Mirzá Daulat, fled to Táshkand where he found Alím Culí with a large army busily fortifying the defences of the city, to which he had hastened on the first intelligence of the Russian advance.

From Táshkand Alím Culí advanced with a considerable force under Ming Báý *Lashkarbásh* to secure Chamkand, but he was met and attacked on arrival there by a Russian column from Turkistán; and after a severe encounter succeeded in driving them back. The Awliyá Atá column, however, coming up at this juncture joined that from Turkistán, and the combined Russian forces next day made an attack upon Chamkand. Alím Culí fought with his accustomed impetuosity and bravery, and forced the Russians to fall back upon Turkistán. He then put the defences of the place into repair, and leaving Mirzá Ahmad *Koshbegi* in its command with a strong garrison, hurried back to control affairs at Khokand, to recover which Khudáyár was intriguing.

Three months had hardly elapsed when news came that the Russians were again moving in great force against Chamkand. On this Alím Culí at once despatched Yákúb Beg *Koshbegi* to hold and strengthen the defences of Táshkand. On his arrival there, however, he was joined by Mirzá Ahmad just arrived from Chamkand, whence he had been driven by the Russians who took the place in the beginning of October 1864, and ten days later pushed on against Táshkand. As they approached