

P. February—a small party arrived from Táshkand with news of Alím Culí's victory over the Russians at Aycán, and brought with them 40 heads of the slain. These were exhibited in the main bazars, to the delight of the populace and gratification of the chiefs, and were the means of soon raising Yákúb Beg's army to some 3,000 men.

Sadíc Beg meanwhile had raised a force of as many Kirghiz, and with them marching against Káshghar invested the city and demanded its surrender. He fixed his head-quarters at the shrine of Hazrát Pádsháh, a few hundred yards from the south-eastern walls, and with sacrifices of horses and sheep devoutly sought the aid of the saint against the interlopers. On this Buzurg sent out Yákúb Beg to disperse the besiegers. After a slight skirmish he drove off their detachment posted in front of the Kúm Darwáza, or "Sand Gate," and fixing his head-quarters at the shrine of Syad Jaláluddín Bughdádí, a few hundred yards off to the south and close to the shrine occupied by Sadíc Beg, next morning sent forward Abdulla *Pansad* with a small force to dislodge him. This he quickly did by the bold impetuosity of his attack, and pursued his scattered Kirghiz across the Kizil River to Pakhtaghlic, whence Sadíc escaped to Tashmalik where he rallied his dispersed followers.

Buzurg and Yákúb Beg now took the field together with 400 horse and 4,000 foot raised in the city and suburbs. They seized Farrásh, the fort of Sadíc, and Buzurg holding this sent his General to the encounter with the Kirghiz pretender. Yákúb Beg overtook the enemy next day at the foot of the hills where the Kirghiz held fast to meet their opponents. On their approach, according to custom, they put forward their champion, a gigantic fellow named Súránchí, who could fell an ox at a blow, for single combat. Abdulla volunteered to meet the adversary, and in the first charge driving his lance through the heart of the Kirghiz killed him on the spot. Sadíc seeing his champion fall, fled into the hills, and being deserted by his gathering, who now dispersed to their camps, made his way with only a few attendants to Alím Culí at Khokand.

After this successful expedition Yákúb Beg rejoined Buzurg at Farrásh, and they marched together against Yángí Hissár, where the Chinese garrison held out in its Yángíshahr Fort. They besieged the fort ineffectually for three weeks, and then leaving a force behind to continue the investment returned to Káshghar, where, three days after arrival, Yákúb Beg took up his quarters at Pakhtaghlic and laid siege to the Yángíshahr held by the Ambán and his Khitáy garrison; whilst Buzurg re-established in the *Orda* returned to his drugs and women.

Just after the siege had commenced, Nar Muhammad *Parwánchí* with a small party arrived at Mingyol, and was detained there by the outpost guard for the orders of Yákúb Beg. He sent out the *dastúrkhwán* of welcome, and directed they should all be brought in to him. Nar Muhammad now explained that his companion—Ibráhím Khán, the son of Habíbulla Khán, Pádsháh of Khutan—had come as envoy from his father to Alím Culí to announce his success against the Khitáy and seek a friendly alliance; and that Alím Culí having received him with favour had granted him the title of Sudúr Khán, and on his departure to return home had appointed himself (Nar Muhammad) to accompany him as envoy from Khokand to the Pádsháh of Khutan.

On this Yákúb Beg decided on accompanying them as far as Yárkand, because the Kúchá Khojas who were in power there, though subordinate to the Khán Khoja—that is, Buzurg Khán—had not yet tendered their submission. They set out together from Káshghar on the 1st *Maharram* 1283 H. (28th May 1865). On arrival at Kok Rabát, the Governor of Yárkand, Nyáz Beg, and some of the Tungání leaders came out to meet Yákúb Beg with presents and a promise of welcome at the city. They halted a day, exchanged civilities, and renewed mutual vows of sincerity, and then advanced towards the city. At Karábojush they encountered a Tungání picket and were refused a passage; but after a parley with their leaders and Nyáz Beg, who explained that the visit of the Koshbegi was of a friendly nature merely to convey