

cost me the toes of the right foot. It was as a helpless invalid that I had to get myself carried somehow over the 300 miles of rough mountain track on the Kara-koram route, with its high passes reaching to over 18,000 feet, before medical aid could be obtained at Leh. The recovery was painfully slow; but there was comfort in the thought that my programme had been carried right through, and that my own accident had not interfered with the safe transport of my collection of antiquities, filling close on a hundred cases, which reached the British Museum uninjured.

Tasks of such extent and variety as this rapid summary indicates could not have been accomplished without manifold aid to overcome the serious difficulties which were bound to beset every one of them. This much-needed help has come to me from many quarters, and it is no small satisfaction to be able to record here the debts of gratitude which I owe. Foremost and greatest is my obligation towards the Government of India. Being then under the aegis of Lord Curzon as Viceroy, and stimulated, no doubt, by his deep interest in geographical research and all that bears on the antiquities and history of India, it sanctioned in 1905 my proposed explorations with the approval of His Majesty's Secretary of State, set me free from administrative duties, and provided the bulk of the means needed for the execution of my plan. The help of kind patrons and friends, such as my lamented chief, Colonel Sir Harold Deane, the late Sir Denzil Ibbetson, Sir James Wilson, K.C.S.I., and Mr. E. D. Maclagan, C.S.I., former and present Secretary to the Government of India in the Revenue Department, did much to smooth the way for a timely consideration of my proposals by Government. Their favourable decision was facilitated by the generous offer of the Trustees of the British Museum to contribute two-fifths of the estimated cost of the expedition, against a corresponding share in