

out of Herat, and became sole ruler of Afghanistan.

North of the Hindu Kush, and between that range, the Oxus River, and the Turkoman Steppe, are situated Badakshan and Afghan Turkestan, as the provinces of Kunduz, Khulm, Balkh, Sir-i-pul, Shibirkhan, Andkhui, and Maimana are conveniently called nowadays. The great mass of the population belongs to the Usbeg race, who are of the same Turki stock as the Usbeg inhabitants of Russian Turkestan. The best account of this part of the world, in recent times, is 'Gen. Grodekoff's ride from Samarkand to Herat,' translated from the Russian by the indefatigable Charles Marvin.

Before 1872, Balkh, near the ruins of the ancient Bactra, was the capital of Afghan Turkestan. But in that year the cholera raged there with such virulence that the seat of government was removed to Mazar-i-Sharif, a few miles to the east, where is situated, according to the Usbegs, the tomb of Ali. Balkh is now an insignificant village. Gen. Grodekoff spent a couple of weeks of enforced idleness at Mazar-i-Sharif in 1878; and to his Russian eyes the Usbegs seemed ready to fall into the arms of the czar, the advance of whose armies, however menacing to Afghanistan and India, has certainly brought order and law to central Asia, and especially to the Usbeg countries of Bokhara and Khiva. Almost nothing is known of the condition of the country at the present time; but the Usbegs assisted Abdurrahman Khan in his struggle against the sons of Shir Ali. That they are more trusted by the Kabulites now than in 1878, is shown by the fact, that, while they were then disarmed, an Usbeg corps formed part of the amir's escort to the recent conference at Rawal Pindi.

The origin of the Turkomans is veiled in obscurity; but it may be stated as certain, that in 1830 the Tekke Turkomans occupied the Akhal oasis, the Sarik Turkomans lived amidst the ruins of Merv, and the Salor Turkomans resided in and around Sarakhs. They were all robbers and slave-stealers, but the Tekkes seem to have been by far the most savage and energetic. They flourished, and outgrew the capabilities of the Akhal oasis. A portion split off, and, advancing to the east, settled down on the Tajand. The Persians, in 1833, fell upon the Salors at Sarakhs, and all that escaped took refuge among the Sariks at Merv. The Tekkes then moved on to Sarakhs, and, as they gradually acquired strength, extended their forays to Khiva, Bokhara, and to every part of Persian Khorassan. This

brought upon them the vengeance of the Persians, who, in 1857, drove them from Sarakhs to Merv. As there was not room on that oasis for such a large population, the Tekkes compelled the Sariks to move farther up the Murgháb. They established themselves at Yulatan and Panj Deh, driving out the Salors, and according to the Russian general, Petrusevitch, some Afghan nomads who fed their flocks near the latter place. The Tekkes, now masters of Merv, built an enormous dam at Benti, and by means of lateral canals greatly increased the cultivable area of the oasis, until it became capable of supporting a population of not less than a quarter-million souls. From this secure retreat, the Merv Tekkes raided the frontier provinces of Persia and Afghanistan, until whole districts became desolate. In 1861 a Persian army thirty thousand strong, accompanied by artillery, was sent against them; but instead of defeating the Merv Tekkes, the Persians were overthrown, and fully one-half captured and sold into slavery by the Mervli. After the Russians had brought Khiva and Bokhara under their dominion in 1873, they abolished slavery in those places, and, by closing their great slave-markets, took away from the Tekkes the incentive to the capture of slaves.

The ground put forward by Russia to justify her occupation of Panj Deh and Sarakhs is now clear; that is, if we allow that the Sariks were tributary to the Merv Tekkes. Those of Yulatan undoubtedly were; they could not very well help it, living as they did on the oasis. But the case is not so clear as to the Panj Deh Sariks, who, according to the English and Afghans, pay tribute to Herat. The Russians reply that no tribute is paid except at the point of the bayonet, and therefore, on ethnological grounds, Panj Deh should go with Merv. That compulsion is necessary, is certainly true. It is admitted by the Afghans. But the soldier is the tax-gatherer not only of Panj Deh, but of central Asia. In conclusion, it will not be amiss to again point out that all of Afghanistan north of the Hindu Kush and its outlying spurs belongs, both geographically and ethnographically, to Russian Asia, rather than to Afghanistan.

EDWARD CHANNING.

THE LEGAL LANGUAGE OF INDIA.¹

IN the higher courts of justice and in government administration in Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, the English language is coming into general use. In

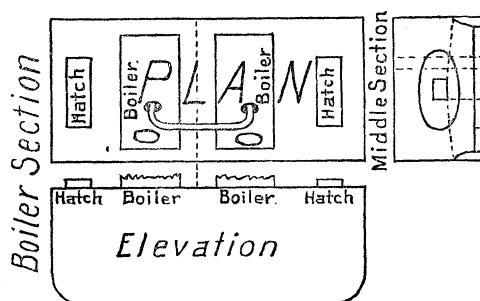
¹ Translated from the *Oesterreichische monatschrift für den orient.*

the courts, both written and spoken proceedings are in English. In the examination of native witnesses, and in the reading of documents in the native language, the judges are allowed interpreters. In other parts of India, however, the provincial language is used, both in legal and in government transactions: thus, in Bengal, the Bengalese is employed; in Behar and the north-western provinces, the Urdu and Hindu dialects; in Madras, the Telugu and Tamil; the official language varying in accordance with the dialect used in each province. In law cases the magistrates have the privilege of declaring which dialect is to be considered legal. English-speaking officers (either Englishmen or natives) can use English in rendering their judgments, etc.; but they must be perfectly familiar with the native tongue, and use it in intercourse with the parties. Everywhere in the cantons, schools are organized in which elementary instruction in the provincial dialects is given: in all the more important places there are schools in which English is taught; and there are a smaller number of colleges in which those higher branches, usually taught in English high schools and colleges, may be studied. Besides these, there are a considerable number of colleges especially devoted to the study of eastern dialects. In this class are the midrassi (Mohammedan theological high schools, in which philosophy and science also are taught), and Sanskrit colleges and schools, a considerable number of which are at present encouraged and supported by the government. The use of the native dialects has always been encouraged by the English government; and in reference to this there has never been any agitation among the native population. But there are numerous associations with the declared purpose of protecting the interests of the natives; and thus it happens that the wishes of government which are in accord with the existence and spread of education among the natives, are at times supported by these associations. Petitions and presentations may be drawn up either in the official dialect of the province or in English. In reality, documents of this kind always receive consideration, whatever language is used.

HAULING A STEAMER THROUGH AFRICA.

FROM letters of one of the agents of the International African association, we gather the following account of the transportation of the steamer *Le Stanley* along the banks of the Kongo from the Atlantic to Stanley Pool. As the rapids in the river necessitated the hauling of this craft over the land, she was divided into nine sections, about eight feet by sixteen, each of which was mounted on a heavy iron wagon, especially designed for the purpose, which required, through the roadless country on level ground, some eighty Zanzibaris each to haul them. It will readily be understood that in such a hilly country considerable difficulty was to be met in managing these wagons; and the transportation has

not been effected without many accidents. As many as twenty per cent of the men were generally incapacitated for work by broken limbs, or wounds, though only two were actually killed. This is a very small proportion, when the dangers are considered to which these fellows were exposed, which can be best imagined when one thinks of a wagon of iron, loaded with several tons of the same metal, running down a steep hill, almost or entirely beyond the control of its attendants. This down-hill movement was only attempted with some fifty men in front, and two hundred behind, exerting all their strength to check the speed. The negroes would always stand by the wagon as long as a white man did; but the minute their white superintendent or commander had let go, they followed his example with alacrity. The wagons were steered by three of the Zanzibaris, who, strange to say, always escaped, very possibly owing to their superior agility. On one of the down-hill movements, when a wagon got entirely beyond control, the wheels were broken off, and one was found sticking in the mud, but another was never seen again.



The steamer, which by this time is probably finished, is a clumsy affair, of great beam and light draught, about sixty-nine feet long. A clear idea may be obtained of the form of the vessel from the accompanying plans of the section containing the two boilers. When finished, the steamer will be eighty feet six inches long, including the wheel, which is at the stern; and about the same beam throughout, excepting at the bow, which is of course tapering. The boilers are placed at the bow; and the machinery at the stern, acting directly on the paddle-wheel, eight feet four inches in diameter. *Le Stanley* is not a beautiful boat, but will serve a good purpose on the Kongo, where there were only a few steam-launches before her completion. Her capacity is large, and, when loaded, she draws only two feet of water.

THE EFFICIENCY OF THE STEAM-ENGINE.

THE results of a series of trials of steam-engines, tested without reference to the efficiency of the boiler, by Mr. J. G. Mair, and reported by him to the British institution of civil engineers,¹ will repay careful study

¹ Excerpts, lxxix. part i.