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A  
SHORT ACCOUNT  
OF AN  
EXPEDITION TO THE JADE MINE  
IN  
UPPER BURMAH,  
IN 1887-1888,  
WITH A MAP.

By  
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DEPUTY-COMMISSIONER, BHAMO.



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OF THE  
EXPEDITION TO THE JADE MINES  
IN THE PROVINCE OF YUNNAN  
CHINA  
IN THE YEAR 1886  
BY  
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LONDON:  
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PREFACE.

I publish this short account of the first European expedition to the celebrated Jade Mines at the request of some of my friends. I am afraid they will find but little to interest them in it; and, as it has been hastily written, I hope they will excuse the style in which it is produced. If it affords them any amusement or instruction I shall be satisfied.

C. H. E. ADAMSON,

MAJOR.

Oct. 14th, 1889.

A SHORT ACCOUNT  
OF AN  
EXPEDITION TO BURMAH.

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ON a former occasion (in 1878) I published a "Narrative of an Official Visit to the King of Burmah in March, 1875," giving an account of a voyage from Rangoon to Mandalay, and of my reception by the King of Burmah at his capital.

On my return I little thought that my next visit to Mandalay would be under such different circumstances. Yet so it turned out. On my first visit I went as a stranger and a foreigner, and was received by his Majesty as a representative of the Government of India with courtesy and civility indeed, but still with suspicion and distrust as a "Kulla" foreigner, whose presence in the royal city was merely tolerated owing to the gracious condescension of the King. On my second visit, which was just ten years later, viz., in December, 1885, I went as a ruler in the land, and as one who, instead of being permitted to visit the royal city as a favour, had not only a right to be there, but the power to give orders as to who might and who might not be admitted within the gates of Mandalay.

The change was indeed striking. The British troops, under Sir H. Prendergast, had invaded and conquered the country, and the son and successor of King Mindoon had been deposed, and was on his way, a prisoner, to India.

The town of Mandalay was held by the British troops, and the Royal Palace, but recently occupied by the King, his wives and relations, and ministers of state, was now one large barrack.

At the gates of the Golden Palace, recently so carefully guarded against the intrusion of any but favoured individuals,

the English sentry now paced up and down, refusing admittance to nobles and courtiers who but a month before would have ridiculed the possibility of any one being admitted inside the gates, save by their instrumentality and under their direction. All day long in the place of ministers of state and their followers passing barefooted through the gates, and making obeisance to the "centre of the universe," as the dwelling place of the King was considered, were to be seen British soldiers, in their heavy boots, tramping in and out; and in the place of the gilded cars, conveying members of the royal family, were to be seen strings of bullock carts, laden with all manner of military and commissariat stores.

In the audience chamber itself, where I was formerly received by the King in the presence of his nobles and ministers, not one of whom dared to look on the royal face, were heaped up in confusion stores of all descriptions, including deal cases, in which many of the valuables found in the palace had been hurriedly packed, preparatory to being removed. Everything, except the military arrangements, was in confusion. Heaps of arms and helmets formerly belonging to the King's soldiers, palm leaf records, lumps of jade, huge mirrors, gilded and jewelled chairs, and all sorts of household utensils were scattered about promiscuously throughout the rooms and passages of the Royal Palace.

Gilded beds, on which before no person of lower rank than royalty had slept, were now to be seen doing duty as cots for private soldiers; and the arms and accoutrements of the Sepoys were hung up against gilded pillars. Even now the work of demolition had begun. Walls and partitions were being removed; floors taken up, and the dirt of years was being removed from where it had been concealed from sight, though not from smell, by exquisite carving and gilding.

I will not, however, dwell longer on this theme. It is now an old story. It is my intention rather to give a short account of the first English expedition to the Jade Mines, which, together with the rest of the property of the King of Burmah, came into possession of the British, in consequence of the

successful operations carried out by our troops during the years 1885 to 1887.

It will be necessary, in the first place, to give some idea of the locality of the Jade Mines, together with certain facts regarding them which were known up to the autumn of 1887.

The territory of Upper Burmah, including the Shan States, which came into the British possession in 1885, covers about 200,000 square miles. It is bounded on the west and north-west by Arracan, Chittagong, Assam, and Manipur. On the north and north-east it is bounded by the Chinese Empire. But on the whole of this extended frontier there are ranges of hills, inhabited by Karens, Chins, Kachins, Shans, and other mountain tribes, who paid but a nominal allegiance either to the Burmese Kings or to the Chinese Emperors. Some of them indeed were absolutely independent.

On the first arrival of the Chief Commissioner, Sir Charles Bernard, at Mandalay, in December, 1885, this new country was divided into fourteen districts, and I was placed in charge of the Mandalay district, which included the capital. After some nine months I was transferred to the Bhamo district, which is the most northerly portion of Upper Burmah, and which is conterminous with the Chinese Empire in the north and north-east. In the Bhamo district is the town of Mogoung, from near which it was known that most of the jade stone was obtained.

In the spring of 1886 a column had marched from the town of Bhamo as far as Mogoung. The Deputy-Commissioner, Major Crawford Cooke, had been well received by the natives, and he placed one of the local officials, called Moung Kulla, in authority as the representative of the British Government, with orders to see that the jade stone quarries were worked as usual.

In the Burmese times the working of jade stone was a royal monopoly, and as much as £5,000 used to be received annually from the jade farmer, who was, as a rule, a Chinaman. The jade which used to be exported from Rangoon to China, and which all came from the Burmese jade mines, was valued at

more than £50,000 per annum. It was very necessary, therefore, that the Jade Mines should be brought properly under our control; especially as for some years, owing to the Kachin rebellion and the Chinese occupation of Bhamo, the trade had greatly fallen off.

On arriving to take charge of the Bhamo district I was, among other matters, ordered to direct my attention to the re-opening of trade with the Jade Mines.

In order to get at the mines it was necessary in the first place to establish a permanent post at Mogoung. It is true that a column of British troops had reached that town in the spring of 1886, and had left an official in charge, but this man was soon afterwards murdered; and though his murderers were seized and promptly executed by the natives of the place, yet the official sent in his stead by the Deputy-Commissioner of Bhamo was not well received, and he deemed it expedient to return to Bhamo.

A son of the murdered man, by name Poh Saw, was elected by the people in the place of his father, and he carried on the Government in the name of the British, but in reality as an independent ruler. Owing to disturbances in other parts of the country no troops could be spared for an expedition to Mogoung; to complete the conquest of that part of the country, until the end of 1888.

In the beginning of 1887, having received a reinforcement of some 500 military police, Lieutenant O'Donnell, under my orders, established a stockade at a place called Tsenbo,\* some seventy miles higher up the Irrawaddy than Bhamo. This post afterwards became a base for our advance on Mogoung and the Jade Mines.

The information regarding the Jade Mines which I was able to collect from Chinese merchants and others, together with facts gleaned by the former expedition, may be briefly recapitulated as follows:—

The Jade Mines were said to be situated in a north-westerly

\* A reference to the map will show the position of Tsenbo and the villages north of it.

direction from Bhamo among the Kachin Hills, and distant from that town about 300 miles. They were situated somewhere in the highlands between the sources of the Mogoung and the Chinwind rivers, which are both tributaries of the Irrawaddy. The Mogoung river flows into the Irrawaddy about 100 miles above Bhamo, and the Chindwin is the largest affluent of the Irrawaddy, which it joins near the town of Mingyan, below Mandalay.

Jade had been brought to Rangoon by both these rivers, but the largest quantity had always come by way of Mogoung and Bhamo. There were, therefore, two ways by which the Jade Mines could be reached; but as the road *via* Mogoung was said to be the shorter, and as the town of Mogoung would serve as a base of operations, it was decided to proceed by the latter route. Moreover the road, as far as Mogoung, had been once traversed by our troops, and was therefore not entirely new ground.

To Mogoung it was possible to go either by land or by river, but before reaching it by either way, certain hills inhabited by Kachins had to be passed; and these Kachins, or some of them, were known to be hostile. They had, on several occasions, attacked boats laden with jade on their way down the river, and the traders were so much afraid of them that few dared to venture on the voyage from Mogoung to Bhamo.

From Bhamo to the place where the Mogoung river joins the Irrawaddy the river runs through a defile among hills. The scenery is very grand. Steep hills, covered with dense forest, come down to the very edge of the river; and the bed of the river is formed of massive rocks, which in the dry season appear bare and rugged to 50 or 70 feet above the surface of the water. At intervals the bed of the river is impeded by huge rocks in mid channel, which at first sight appear to render navigation almost impossible for any craft larger than country boats. During the rainy season, when the river is in flood, and during a rapid rise, no boat of any description can go up the river, which rushes with impetuous force through the narrow channels, forming every here and there most dangerous whirlpools. As

there is no road by land during the rainy season, the result is that sometimes for a month or more at a time communication between Bhamo and the upper reaches of the river is entirely closed. In the dry season, however, or when the river is falling, the river is navigable for boats, which are assisted over the rapids by inhabitants of villages on the banks, who manage to add a little to their scanty earnings by this work. I had proved during the summer of 1887 that the river was navigable by steam launches, by taking the Government steam launch "The Mogoung" safely through the defile to our new fort at Tsenbo, a station a short distance below the junction of the Mogoung and Irrawaddy rivers.

The Mogoung river itself is much smaller than the main Irrawaddy. It is full of rapids and sandbanks, and it is with great difficulty that laden boats can, during the dry season, get up the river to Mogoung. It is on these rapids that the Kachins are in the habit of attacking traders' boats. Mogoung is the town to which most of the jade is brought from the mines, and it is here that it is first disposed of to the merchants, who bring it to Bhamo. In the King of Burmah's time the revenue on jade was largely collected at this place, and in addition to legal charges it was well known that large fortunes were made by the officials of the town by illegal means. Of the road from Mogoung to the Jade Mines little could be learnt, as those people who knew the road were almost invariably interested in keeping the knowledge from us. The Chinese, always suspicious of Europeans, were afraid that if English traders were allowed to go to the mines they would lose the monopoly of the jade trade; the Burmese officials knew that they would lose their illegal gains; and the Kachins, who listened to the stories spread about by the Chinese and Burmese, were led to believe that the English were no better than demons. They were led to believe that they would be killed or carried off into slavery; that their hills, their cattle, and their wives would be taken from them. It was therefore but natural that they should not be inclined to give us any assistance. The consequence of this was that distances were doubled, dangers magnified, and the difficulties of

procuring or transporting supplies were represented as much worse than they turned out to be.

If any credence had been placed in the difficulties and dangers which we were informed had to be faced, it is certain that our expedition would never have started in the form it did. Even when a man was met with who was willing to give information, his information was of but little use. Among people who have no idea of distance, as computed by miles or any other standard, it is most difficult to arrive at any correct estimate of the distance from one place to another. A village may be described as being distant two days' journey for a man and five days' journey for a laden bullock; this being the time in which the informant may have travelled over the ground perhaps ten years ago, or the time in which some friend of his had done the journey. Of course, such a description as this is of scarcely any use when endeavouring to compute the time which it will take for a column of 500 men, and half as many heavily-laden mules, to get over the ground. A journey which in March, when the country is dry, may be done in two days, might be absolutely impracticable in December, when the water had not yet sufficiently dried up; and a road which was good three years before, would, if not frequently used and kept open, be absolutely useless, even if it could be found, at the present time. I may therefore say that of the road from Mogoung to the Jade Mines nothing positive was known before we started on our expedition. The attitude of the Kachins towards us was also unknown. It was therefore necessary that we should be prepared for all emergencies; that we should take with us supplies for the whole time we should be absent from Bhamo; that we should be prepared to defend ourselves from attacks on the way; that we should be able to move, as occasion should require, either by land or by water; and that we should be ready to make our own roads and bridges.

In the beginning of 1887, the contract of the man who farmed the jade under the King of Burmah having expired, the right of buying jade was re-let by the British Government to a Cantonese Chinaman called Loon Pine. This man was unpopular

with the Yunamese Chinamen, who form the bulk of the merchants at Bhamo, and who had previously leased the mines. In consequence disputes were very frequent, and as our official at Mogoung neglected to come to Bhamo, matters remained in a most unsatisfactory state. It was obvious that until we had complete control at Mogoung that it would be impossible for us in any way to regulate the traffic in jade; and throughout the year I was making arrangements for the advance of a column to that place, and thence to the district from which the jade was procured. In December, 1887, all was ready for an advance.

It was determined, after much deliberation, that we should march up the Irrawaddy river by the left bank as far as we could, and then cross the river to our fort at Tsenbo. From Tsenbo we were to march to Mogoung, and there to establish a military post, to serve as our base while we proceeded to find our way to the Jade Mines.

After much persuasion the head man of Mogoung had been induced to come to meet me at Tsenbo.

It was very important that this man should be really, and not only in name, our official. His name was Poh Saw. He was a man of great influence among the Kachins, whose hills occupy a large part of the Mogoung district. He was also directly descended from one of the old noble families of Mogoung. He was a Shan, and one the race who had ruled in the Shan kingdom, of which Mogoung was the capital before the Burmese had taken the country. I was, therefore, very pleased when I heard that he was coming to meet me. When he came to Tsenbo he was accompanied by many of the chief Shan residents of Mogoung and by numerous influential Chinese merchants, and I had a satisfactory interview with him inside of our new fort. He promised to obey all orders of the English Government, to govern in accordance with instructions he should from time to time receive from the Deputy-Commissioner Bhamo. In return I appointed him Myoke of Mogoung in the place of his father, who had been murdered in our service. I gave him a large sum as arrears of pay for some months, and I sent him

back to Mogoung with orders to have the roads cut and provisions ready for our troops, who would soon be marching to the Jade Mines. He was also ordered to call in all the Kachin chiefs who were connected with the Jade Mines, in order that I might inform them of the intentions of the British Government. All this he promised to do, and I returned to Bhamo well pleased with the result of my negotiations.

On the 26th December everything was in readiness for our start. The column consisted of the following troops:—

- 50 Rifles Cheshire Regiment.
- 100 Rifles Kelat i Gilzais.
- 25 Mounted Infantry.
- 500 Military Police.
- 2 Guns Mounted Battery.

There were also some 350 baggage mules with their drivers, 2 elephants, 3 steam launches, and 33 large country boats. In addition we had a surveying party to map out the country as we proceeded.

Lieut. Pasley commanded the Artillery.

Capt. Armstrong commanded the Cheshire.

Lieut. Morton was in command of the Native Infantry.

Lieut. O'Donnell commanded the Military Police.

The whole were under the command of Capt. Triscott, R.A., who was an old friend of mine, with Lieut. Williams, R.A., as his staff officer.

We were, moreover, accompanied by Capt. Clements as Commissariat officer, and other officers, together with a Roman Catholic missionary, Father Cadoux, who could if occasion required act as Kachin and Shan interpreter.

Early on the morning of the 27th we marched out of Bhamo and as the column passed out of the north gate of the town it made a great impression on the assembled natives. I doubt whether such a formidable expedition had ever started from Bhamo before. The baggage mules in single file and the artillery and infantry marching one behind the other made a line which extended for about two miles. The whole of the first day was occupied in crossing the Taiping river, a tributary

of the Irrawaddy which joins it a few miles above Bhamo. This river is about a quarter of a mile broad with an island of sand in the middle. All the baggage had to be taken off the mules and conveyed to the sandbank by boats, it had then to be carried across the island and again put into boats before the other side was reached.

We encamped for the night on the north bank of the Taiping river. On the 28th a short march brought us to the Molé Stream, another tributary of the Irrawaddy. This stream is narrow but deep. A number of canoes and boats were collected from a village in the neighbourhood and a bridge of boats was constructed. The animals were all unloaded and the baggage was carried across the stream by means of the bridge. The animals were then all swum across, a movement which was managed very successfully. In the evening we encamped on the north of the Molé Stream, at the village of Thabanbing. Next morning I started early in front of the column, and about 2 p.m. I reached the village of Thabyaybing with my own men and baggage. The road was very hilly with some steep ascents. In the evening I received a message from Capt. Triscott saying that the column could not reach the village to which I had gone on and that he had ordered a halt. I remained where I was, and in the morning I returned to meet the column which I found in camp. After three days' hard marching it was considered advisable to give the baggage animals a day's rest, and numerous alterations had to be effected, as experience had shown where deficiencies existed in the transport and where better arrangement could be made. On Saturday, the 31st, we continued our march along the jungle on the edge of the river and we reached the village of Thamangyee in good time. We encamped for the night on a sandbank about a mile higher up the river, just at the end of the first defile.

On the morning of Sunday, the 1st January, 1888, our real work began. We saw in front of us a ridge of hills, over which we were told we would have to climb. Before getting to this ridge the road lay straight up and down two smaller ridges. The highest ridge is called the Shaitzaboo Hill. The rear guard



reached the village of Nansouk about half-past four o'clock, where we rested for the night. The inhabitants of this village are all "Pwons." They resemble Shans, but speak a totally different language. They were formerly numerous in the valley of the upper Irrawaddy, but they appear to be dying out or to be losing their national characteristics. In this village I was visited by a Kachin chief from the other side of the river. He, like all Kachins we subsequently met, was much impressed by the orderly way in which our men encamped, and the ease with which they were all put in motion again without any confusion.

Monday, 2nd January.—The advance guard left the camp at seven o'clock this morning. I followed with the rear guard, which did not leave till nine o'clock, it having taken just two hours to file out of camp. After starting we progressed at snail's pace, and about two hours were occupied in covering the first mile. Being with the rear guard I did not know what was delaying the front of the column, but as we got forward the delay was explained. We found that the road passed over a succession of small streams emptying their waters into the Irrawaddy. Between each stream was a ridge of hills. The descents to and the ascents from these streams were very steep, and a great deal of jungle clearing and road making had to be done before the baggage mules to get over the ground. The native foot-track which here ran over the hills was absolutely impassable for laden mules and ponies. The slopes were sometimes as much as 38°, and zigzag paths had to be cut to make them practicable. At seven in the evening I arrived with the rear guard at the village of Nanti, where we encamped for the night. The surveying party made out that we had barely marched five miles during the day, and as we had calculated that we should march ten miles daily, including halting days, it was evident that we would take much longer to reach Mogoung than we had intended. Nanti village is on the river bank, and consists of fifteen huts, all inhabited by Pwons. They are very poor, and the village could produce nothing in the way of food but a very few fowls and eggs, which were eagerly bought up at high prices. There was a good sandy

landing place below this village, and here we met the two steam launches and our fleet of thirty-three boats laden with commissariat stores.

Tuesday, 3rd January.—We here got rid of the elephants which had so far accompanied us. We found that instead of being any assistance they only caused delay. Their drivers, whether intentionally or otherwise I know not, seemed unable to manage them, and one of them had already got a sore back. As I had letters to write and office work to do, and as our next halting place, Loungpu, was on the river bank, I arranged to travel to-day in one of the steam launches. I arrived at Loungpu at 11 a.m., and about 3 p.m. the advanced guard of the column reached the village.

Wednesday, 4th January.—In the morning we left Loungpu village, and after crossing the Manaymana stream we arrived at the village of Lehma. Beyond Lehma there was no road, not even a track, with the exception of one that I had caused to be cut a few days previously. Our road now passed along the side of a gorge, where the hills on both sides come close to the river, leaving only a very narrow channel for the passage of the water. It is here that there is the dreaded whirlpool of "Pashio;" and along the side of the hills above this whirlpool our road was made. Owing to the scanty soil covering the rocks there was less rank vegetation than in most places, and with the exception of the numberless beds of dry streams which had to be passed over, on either side of which we had to cut ramps, there was not much to delay our march. After passing this gorge we emerged on some sandy level ground close to the edge of the water. This level ground extended for about a mile and a half to the village of Nanhé, where we were obliged to halt preparatory to crossing the Irrawaddy. I was now at the head of the column, and it was a pretty sight to see it emerging from the green forest in single file, and extending in a tortuous line along the edge of the river from this point to our halting ground. It was the first time we had had an opportunity of seeing more than about 100 men of the column on the march at one time. Here I was met by the Karine Ope, or

head man of Tsenbo village, with about eighty men and between twenty and thirty boats, which I had ordered to be in readiness to assist in crossing the river.

Thursday, 5th.—It was determined by Captain Triscott that no forward move beyond crossing the river should be made to-day, so that the men and animals should have a partial rest. At 7 a.m. the column began to cross the river, and by half-past 3 p.m. the last man had crossed over. The river at this point is about 300 yards wide at this season of the year, and the current flows at the rate of two miles an hour. On either side, below the steep banks of sand or masses of water-worn rocks forming the bed of the river, extend broad sloping banks of sand and gravel, making capital places for embarking and disembarking. The bed of the river itself is gravelly, and for a considerable distance from one bank the water is shallow, whilst on the other side the gradient is steeper. At places, however, the water is deep enough for the steam launches to come alongside to be loaded. All the artillery and infantry, together with their guns, arms, and ammunition were first conveyed across the river in the two launches, "Mogoung" and "Thamollah," and then the mules and ponies were made to swim over the river in batches of four or five at a time. The method employed was the following: A canoe with one Burmese boatman in the bow was drawn up alongside the bank with its bow pointing up stream. Then four or five men, each one leading an animal, passed round the stern and seated themselves in the canoe; after being seated a second Burmese boatman took his place in the stern, and the bow of the canoe being pushed off from the bank, was guided across the river by means of long poles used by the two boatmen. As the canoe crossed the river all the animals were down stream, so that they were not liable to be forced by the current against or under the canoes. The crossing was effected most successfully, not one animal being drowned or hurt. All having crossed early, and the camp having been reformed on the west side of the Irrawaddy, the men had nothing to do for the rest of the day. Some of the officers amused themselves by fishing, and Captain

Armstrong was successful in catching a very fine fish with large scales weighing about sixteen pounds. This fish was a very welcome addition to our larder.

Friday, the 6th.—This morning I started at seven o'clock with the advanced guard. Our way for about a mile ran along the margin of the river and presented no obstacles with the exception of a few rocks which had to be removed to allow the laden mules to pass, but beyond this, as it was rendered impassable by perpendicular rocks, we had to ascend the steep bank of the river and again take to forest paths. The ascent was very steep but it was short, and as both mules and their drivers had now become much more accustomed to hill work they easily managed the very severe though short ascent. After a march of about two miles through forest we emerged on an extensive open plain which stretched westward apparently for about two miles, and beyond this we saw the Kachin Hills, which appeared to be considerably cultivated.

We then marched northwards, and at about half-past 2 p.m. we reached the village of Tsenbo, where Capt. O'Donnell of the military police had about a year before built a stockade and garrisoned it with his Goorkhas.

A large parade ground had been cleared of trees and jungle, and on our men arriving they had nothing to do but pitch their tents on the open ground. All our boats and the steam launches had arrived here before us, but Mr. Warry of the Chinese consular service, who had been ordered to accompany us, had already gone on in advance with his boat.

At Tsenbo great quantities of rice, paddy, and other provisions had already arrived, and were stored in the stockade. The commissariat and transport officers had therefore much work to do in arranging how all these stores had to be carried to Mogoung.

The two launches were unable to proceed further owing to the shallowness of the water, and they were sent back to Bhamo as they could be of no further use.

At this village we met a party of 75 Chinese Shans who were going to seek work at the Jade Mines. We offered them eight

annas a day to carry a portion of our baggage to Mogoung, but though they at first appeared only too glad to get the money yet they afterwards hung back, and we could only get about half-a-dozen to accompany us. The reports we received here from Mogoung appeared to be satisfactory, and though I learnt that the Myoke Poh Saw had not had the roads cut for us according to promise, yet I was willing to believe that he had not been able to find labour, as the inhabitants between Tsenbo and Mogoung are few and far between.

Sunday, 8th.—All arrangements having been made we left Tsenbo for Mogoung. We carried with us about ten days' provisions, leaving the rest of the supplies to come on by the boats. We also left Capt. O'Donnell and his military police behind us with instructions to follow the next day. The road lay for some distance along open ground near the bank of the river and then struck inland across a grassy plain partly cultivated with rice. About three o'clock we arrived at a stream in the middle of thick bamboo and rattan jungle, and as the next stream was reported to be a long way off we determined to encamp here for the night. There were not twenty square yards of clear ground, and our men had therefore very hard work in clearing a camping place sufficiently large to accommodate all the animals and their loads. It was, however, at last accomplished, the swords of the gunners proving most useful in cutting down the bamboos and thick brushwood.

Monday, the 9th.—At the commencement of the march to-day, we passed through some fine forest where there were a considerable number of teak trees. We crossed a largish stream about four miles from our starting point, and then entered on some plains which extended, with patches of jungle here and there, for about eight miles. These plains had evidently been cultivated some years ago, as the bunds for keeping in the water for rice cultivation were apparent in many places. We were told that this land had formerly produced excellent crops of paddy, but owing to fear of Kachin raiders it was no longer tilled. Here were thousands and thousands of acres of excellent land, covered with nothing but short grass, waiting to

be cultivated. On this march I put up a woodcock (the only one I saw during this expedition), and I shot some snipe which got up among dry grass. We also saw abundant traces of pig, deer, and elephant; but, though we advanced over some of these plains with the advance guard in skirmishing order, I did not see anything larger than a peacock. Towards evening we again reached the forest, which clearly showed that we were approaching a stream or river, and before long we arrived at the village of Nounkan, consisting of about twelve houses. There was no suitable place for encamping here; and as we learnt that about two miles further on we should reach an extensive sandbank in the bed of the Mogoung river, we continued our way.

After what seemed a long march to us, who were already tired owing to the absence of all shade from the sun on the extensive plains we had crossed in the middle of the day, we emerged from the gloomy forest on the broad bed of the Mogoung river. Here tents were quickly pitched, though it was dark before the rear guard arrived. About 8 o'clock, as we were having dinner, Captain O'Donnell and his Goorkhas marched into camp, having done the twenty-five miles from Tsenbo in one day. It had taken our column two days to cover the distance, but we had to make bridges and portions of the road, whereas the Goorkhas had nothing but their marching to attend to. However, twenty-five miles was a good day's march, and we congratulated O'Donnell on the gameness of his men, not one of whom had fallen out during the day. At the same time Mr. Palmer, Deputy Conservator of Forests, who had been ordered to accompany the column to report on the teak, india-rubber, and other forest produce, arrived.

After dinner in the evening, as was frequently the case during the march, the soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment made a large bonfire on the sand, round which they sat and amused themselves by singing songs. They invited the officers to come and join them and an hour or two was pleasantly spent in this way, some of the officers joining in the singing. I remember one song, "The Farmer's Boy." This was a great favourite,



and was sung by a man from Cheshire, who had a most powerful base voice, and who sang in an exceedingly good Cheshire dialect. It was on this march, too, that I first heard that popular music hall song, "Two lovely black eyes." This way of spending the evenings was very popular, and it gave the men something to do during the long dark evenings.

January 10th.—To-day was to be spent in crossing the river, as the track to Mogoung was on the other side. As it was not proposed to do more than reach the opposite bank in a day there was no necessity to make an early start; so several of the officers went out with their guns, but, with the exception of some jungle fowl and a Kalege pheasant, nothing was shot. After breakfast the work of crossing began. The sandbank on which we encamped ran right out into the river, and the water was shallow till close under the opposite bank, which rose abruptly out of the water. Some large rafts of teak were lying on the sandbank, and with these we spent some time in trying to form a floating bridge across the river; but the current was so strong that our ropes broke and the rafts floated away. We managed to get three or four boats from a village some miles up the river, and having made one or two rafts, we were enabled by their means to get the guns and commissariat stores to the other side. The mules and ponies had to be driven into the water in droves, as we had not sufficient boats to tow them across. It was exciting work and several had very narrow escapes. They had great difficulty in getting out of the water on to the opposite bank as it was steep and the bottom very muddy at the landing place. The head rope of one mule became entangled in a sunken tree and it was drowned, but the rest were all landed safely, though some were in a very exhausted condition.

There were some very fine teak trees growing on the west side of the river near Nounkan village; but the finest had evidently been cut down as many stumps were to be seen, and several large trees which had been girdled some years ago were still standing dead and bare in the forest. Here we learnt from the head man of the village that the Myoke Poh Saw had given

no orders about clearing the road, and that he had not even informed the villagers that our troops were coming up. As we had now entered upon a part of the country of which we knew nothing, and as we had not with us any local official, we were obliged to be very much on the alert, lest we should be surprised by the enemy. I was much disconcerted when I found that the Myoke had done nothing to prepare the people for our arrival, and I was not altogether sure that he might not be playing us false. Extra precautions were henceforth taken to guard against any enemy who might appear.

Wednesday, 11th.—Early this morning Mr. Warry arrived in his boats, he had left Tsenbo before we reached it, but his Chinese boatmen absolutely refused to enter the Mogoung river until they knew that our expedition had preceded them. He had amused himself about the mouth of the river by shooting pea fowl, teal, and other birds, which were very plentiful. He elected to continue his journey by water. As Capt. O'Donnell's boats with rations for his men had not arrived we continued our march, leaving him and his Goorkhas to follow. Our road for some distance followed the course of the river till we reached the village of Namyat. This used to be a large and flourishing village, of from fifty to sixty houses, well situated on some elevated ground on the bank of the river. There are now only four inhabited houses in the village, and it is under the protection of the Kachin Saubwa of Hokat. I must here explain what is meant by being under the protection of a Kachin Saubwa. Each Kachin hill or group of hills is reigned over by a Saubwa, or petty king, who has absolute power among his own people. These Saubwas are continually at war with each other; and they constantly made predatory excursions against the Burmese and Shan villages on the plains. In consequence of these predatory excursions most of the Burmese and Shans have left their villages, and those that remain purchase the protection of some neighbouring Kachin chief, who, in return for occasional presents, undertakes to protect them from other Kachin tribes. Thus, before the arrival of the British, the wretched inhabitants of

the villages had to pay not only taxes to the Burmese Government, but also a much heavier tax to the Kachins, whose slaves they were in fact though not in name. The head man of this village, for there is a head man, although the village only consists now of four houses, acted as our guide to the next camping place. The early part of the march was easy, but in the afternoon we came to very thick forest intersected with numerous steep ravines. The road had to be cleared of bamboo and other underwood as we went along, and we made very slow progress. At 5 p.m. we arrived at a halting place in the river bank called Yinbat Sekkan. This halting place was most confined, being a narrow slip of ground between the river and some steep, jungle-covered hills. All the ground had to be cleared for the camp, and it was quite dark before this was done. It was dangerous to go outside of one's tent after dark, as it was impossible to move about without running up against mules, which were tied up in all directions close to the tents. I and some other officers endeavoured to find our way to the main guard to get our tots of rum, but after falling over ropes and running against stumps of trees which had been cut down, we returned from our search without having accomplished our purpose. During the night a party of Chinese Shans came and encamped close to us. As we did not know what they wanted, we at once put sentries over them till morning. We then found out that they were some of the men whom we had seen in Tsenbo, and who had refused to carry our baggage. As we were much in want of labour to clear the wood for us, we made these men accompany us under escort and do this work, for which they were afterward paid. I think they were quite willing to have worked for us, but they were afraid that we should be attacked and that they would be killed for having given us assistance.

Thursday, 12th.—We continued our march to-day, and on the way I met the Kachin Saubwa of Hokat riding with one follower. He was returning to his hill from Mogoung. He was the first man from whom we had heard anything about what was going on in Mogoung since we had started. He gave us the startling intelligence that Loon Pine, the Cantonese

Chinaman who held the jade monopoly, had been murdered in his house, and that a European captain who was with him had been shot at. I could not make out who the European could be, as to the best of my belief there had been no European in Mogoung for about two years. It afterwards turned out that the European was one of the captains of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, who had gone up the Irrawaddy a short time previously to look at the river in the interests of his employers. The Saubwa also stated that no preparations were being made to receive us, but that neither had he heard of any preparations to oppose our march to Mogoung. To-day's road was easy, and it was early when we emerged from the forest again opposite to the village of Tapaw. The river is here about 150 yards broad; for the greater portion of its width it is about breast-deep at this time of the year, but for a short distance close under the bank, on the Tapaw side, it is from eight to ten feet deep. As there were only one or two small boats at Tapaw, it was impossible for us to cross the river to-day, so we encamped for the night where we were. I sent for the head man of Tapaw, who came evidently in a state of great alarm. On my asking why preparations had not been made for our crossing, he said that he had received no orders on the subject. There were no boats in his village, but there were plenty in Mogoung, which could be sent down so as to be at Tapaw to-morrow. By land it was only a few miles to Mogoung, and after we had crossed the river, an easy march, he said, would take us to Mogoung. This head man was very civil, and offered to do everything he could for us. After consideration Captain Triscott and I came to the conclusion that the best thing to do was to send to Mogoung, and order the Myoke to come to us at once and bring with him a number of boats. As the fact of the murder of the Chinaman was confirmed, as was also the fact that a European in his boat had passed down the river in all haste, and as the Myoke had made no preparation to meet us, it was quite evident that something was wrong. We had with us as interpreter an Indian Mussalman named Suffer Ally. He had previously, some years before, been a jade merchant

and had visited the Jade Mines. He spoke Burmese, Shan, Kachin, and Hindostanee, and was very well known in Mogoung and also to some of the Kachin chiefs. He seemed to have a wife in every important place, and to be on good terms with almost all the people in this part of the country. He volunteered to ride into Mogoung, if we would send some man who knew the road to accompany him, and take a letter to the officials there, and also to bring back news of what was going on. His offer was accepted, and he was sent off with an order from me to the Myoke and his officials to come at once and assist us.

13th January.—From an early hour this morning we commenced crossing the river with such boats as we had and forming our camp near Tapau village. This village has now between thirty and forty houses, some of them fairly well built. Before the Kachin rebellion it consisted of more than sixty houses. It is surrounded by an extensive rice plain, and even now it shows signs of prosperity. The rice had just been harvested, and a large quantity was lying out in the fields where it had been thrashed. Fowls and rice were plentiful in the village, and our men bought a large number of the former, which they were uncommonly glad to get after living for about a fortnight on tinned beef varied occasionally with some tough fresh beef, for we had brought a small herd of bullocks with us so that the men might occasionally have a change from salt meat. While the troops were crossing the river, Captain Triscott and myself, together with a party of mounted infantry, taking with us some villagers to show us the road, started on our ponies to reconnoitre the road to Mogoung. We had first to cross a large rice plain intersected with muddy ditches, which though easily enough crossed by men on ponies would prove a serious obstacle to a long column of mules; after four or five miles of plain we came to the foot of some hills over which we had to pass, and at the foot of these hills was a veritable morass through which with great difficulty we got our ponies. After going a little further we returned to camp, as it was necessary to make arrangements for crossing the ditches

and swamps which intercepted the road to Mogoung. On our way we had met Suffer Ally returning from Mogoung. He brought us news that the Myoke Poh Saw had run away, and that it was thought that he intended to raise the Kachins against us; that Loon Pine's murder was thought to be the immediate cause of his disappearance. He, however, said that the boats had been sent from Mogoung as I had ordered, and that the other officials would come out and meet me in the course of the day. On our return we found that the boats had arrived, and that the whole force had been brought from the other side, and were encamped round Tapaw village. In the course of the afternoon the second in authority in Mogoung, whose title was "the Nakan," accompanied by some Kyoungtagas and Payantagas, *i.e.*, builders of monasteries and pagodas, came from Mogoung to the camp. I was very angry with them for not having had everything ready for us on our arrival. They excused themselves and laid all the blame on the Myoke who had run away. I gave orders to them at once to collect men and make the road from Tapaw village to Mogoung passable, and I told them I should march into Mogoung next day and that they must accompany me. It was evident that they were in extreme fear, and that they were frightened to do anything for fear of offending the Myoke, of whom they appeared to be in great awe, and of whose whereabouts and intentions they professed complete ignorance. In the evening Mr. Warry arrived in his boat having met Capt. Rimmer going down the river with the Chinaman who was insensible but still alive. From the account given by Capt. Rimmer things in Mogoung seemed to be in an alarming state, and Loon Pine seemed to have been in great fear of his life a day or two before it was really attempted. The news of the murder of Loon Pine and of the flight of the Myoke were most serious matters to me; for if the Myoke were to raise the Kachins against us we should in all probability have to fight them before we could reach the Jade Mines. I had been reckoning on the Myoke's influence with the Kachins to enable us to arrange matters with them on a satisfactory footing. My

arrangements were completely overthrown, and I had to wait to see what would turn up before any fresh plans could be made.

Saturday, 14.—We started for Mogoung this morning taking with us the Burmese officials who had come to meet us the previous day. The march across the plain was made without difficulty as bridges had been made over the ditches we had seen before. The swamp at the bottom of the hill delayed us considerably, but, at last, the whole column managed to pass over on a bridge made principally of elephant grass, which grew in abundance all round the place. This grass when cut down and spread abundantly on the surface of the swamp makes a very fair road; though, after a large number of animals have passed over, it becomes treacherous, and the legs of animals are apt to slip through. After crossing this swamp we had to climb a low range of hills from the top of which we had our first view of Mogoung. It appeared to be distant two or three miles from where we were; but only the spires of the pagodas and monasteries were visible, as the rest of the houses were hidden by the trees which grew in and about the town. It appeared to be in the middle of a large plain surrounded on sides by hills, and through the centre of the plain we could, at intervals, see the river winding its course.

The highest hills appeared to be to the north-east, where the Shwé Doung Hill was conspicuous. From the summit of the ridge, where we were, we descended into the plain, and for a short time we lost sight of Mogoung. We passed one or two small and poor looking villages, from which the villagers looked at us suspiciously. On entering the plain which surrounds Mogoung we came upon a number of people sitting on the road side. These were introduced to me as the head residents of Mogoung, who had come to meet us and to assure us of their submission. I continued to march on and told these people to follow till we arrived at the lower gate of the city, where a halt was called. From this place parties of troops were sent into the town to reconnoitre and to fix on a place for the camp. While this was being done I held an informal conference with the Mogoung elders. They were in a great state

of alarm at the conduct of the Myoke in running away. They were afraid he had gone to raise the Kachins against us, and they were alarmed lest he should come and set fire to and loot Mogoung. I think really that many of them were glad that our troops had arrived, especially when I informed them that the town would never again be left without a European officer and a sufficient number of troops to protect them against Kachin raids. One of my first acts was to denounce the murder of Loon Pine the Chinaman, and to offer a reward of 1,000 rupees for information which would lead to the arrest of his murderers. I declared that if the murderer could be discovered, whether he was a high official or the lowest coolie, that he would be tried for his life. I exhorted them not to be afraid of the British soldiers, who I assured them would do them no harm; and I promised that if the Myoke returned to his duty, he would be forgiven for his negligence and confirmed in his appointment so long as he should continue loyally to obey orders. By this time a site for the camp had been selected on a sand bank adjoining the upper end of the town; and on the order to advance being given, the entire column marched through the main street of the town from one end to the other, thus affording an opportunity to all present to see the whole strength of the force.

A short description of Mogoung town will not be out of place here.

Mogoung was at one time the capital of a Shan kingdom, and was then a large and flourishing city. It has since seen many changes, and at present does not consist of more than 200 or 300 houses. It is built on the bank of the river at the junction of the Namhong and Namyia streams, and is surrounded by water on two sides. On the other two sides it is surrounded by a teak palisade, which has been allowed to become so dilapidated as to be of little use for purposes of defence. Inside of this palisade the town is laid out in squares, each square being surrounded by brick made roads at right angles to each other, while one main brick road runs the whole length of the town. Inside the walls and also

adjoining them at the upper and lower ends are numerous pagodas, monasteries, and other sacred buildings. The pagodas are substantial structures of brick, some of them being gilded, while some of the monasteries are large and handsome teak buildings. Mogoung is the headquarters of a Buddhist bishop, who has his jurisdiction throughout the whole of the northern part of the Bhamo district, and who is a man of very great influence.

In the centre of the town are some very good houses, and at the upper end is the Chinese quarter and the Chinese temple. The Chinese form a large and important element in the population of Mogoung. Nearly all the trade of the place is in their hands, and it is they who do the largest business in jade and india rubber—the two principal productions of the place. The Chinese quarter is like the Chinese quarter of other Burmese towns, very dirty and crowded. From nearly every shop could be smelt the odour of arrack, which is extensively cooked and sold by the Chinamen; and the usual quantity of pork, raw and cooked, was exposed for sale in front of the houses. In the streets and about the Zayats or rest houses, of which there are a great number in Mogoung, we noticed very many Chinese Shans. These men annually come in large numbers from Hotha, Latha, and other Chinese Shan states to gain a little money by working at the Jade Mines. They are strange, wild-looking people, as a rule rather short in size, but often strong and wiry. They are invariably dressed in a blue cotton jacket and loose blue Chinese trousers, and they wear their hair in a sort of long tail behind, more or less after the fashion of Chinese. They are each armed with a long sword, and, as a rule, each carries a bag in which he keeps his eating utensils, food, and blanket.

In front of the town of Mogoung is an island, and alongside of it were drawn up some score of boats and canoes. It is to this island that all supplies of jade and india-rubber are brought from up country, and here also boats from Bhamo and the Irrawaddy, bringing up all sorts of miscellaneous articles, congregate on their arrival. The island is joined to the mainland by a small bamboo bridge—it is looked upon as a place of

safety in the event of the Kachins attacking the town. Many of the villagers keep their valuables in boats for protection, and some women and children go nightly to sleep in the boats where they consider they are safer than in their houses. The troops were not long in settling down comfortably on the sand bank, and, sentries having been placed at intervals round the camp to prevent the entrance of any natives unprovided with passes, the men were at liberty to move about and amuse themselves. One thing to be guarded against was the sale of spirits to the soldiers. I have already stated that liquor was to be bought in any quantity in the Chinese quarter. At the request of Captain Triscott I issued a proclamation forbidding the sale of liquor to the troops. Chinamen had already been seen lurking about the outskirts of the camp with supplies of liquor. They were warned against selling it, but at first they did not pay much attention to the order. One man was caught in the act of selling. He was taken before the military authorities and sentenced to a flogging, which was at once carried out in the sight of all the natives on the sand bank in front of the camp. This had an excellent effect, and, during our stay in Mogoung, there were no more cases of selling liquor to the soldiers.

It was on this day that I first met with a man called *Shwe Gya*.\* He had been a trader and resident in Mogoung for many years. His father and mother were a Kachin and a native of Assam respectively, but in habits, religion, and dress, he was not to be distinguished from the Burmese Shans of Mogoung. When Major Cooke had been in Bhamo in 1886, he found this man most useful. He had been a soldier at one time, and was well versed in Kachin tactics. From the commencement he realized the power of the English and unreservedly threw in his lot with us. He was appointed a Nakan, or subordinate official, by Major Cooke, but had subsequently asked to be relieved, as he could not get on with the Myoke. I now sent for this man and he came to me. I at once took a great liking to him, and he was my right hand man as long as I remained in the Mogoung district. From him I by degrees

\* This man has since been foully murdered by some Kachins in his own house.



learnt all that had been going on in Mogoung for the last two years, and when he had overcome his shyness and modesty I found him simply invaluable.

As it was essential that all persons wishing to speak to me should have at all times free and unrestrained access, and as this could not be granted in the middle of the camp, I took up my quarters in a rest house inside of the town; and I procured from Captain Triscott a small European guard for my protection, as it was not considered safe for me to go about without an escort. At night Captain O'Donnell with his police arrived, so the whole force was now assembled in Mogoung.

Sunday, the 15th.—I received information to-day that the Myoke had been prevailed on to return. I was much relieved at hearing this, and I appointed an hour in the morning when I would receive him. I determined to hold a sort of Durbar, at which I would be able publicly to explain the objects of the Expedition and the views of the British Government. I ordered all the elders and notables of the place to assemble in a certain monastery enclosure at half-past ten o'clock, and I arranged with Capt. Triscott that all the officers of the Expedition should attend, and that an European guard of honour should be present. Punctually at the time Capt. Triscott and myself entered the enclosure, and were received by the guard with a general salute. The Myoke was then presented to me, and was ordered to take his seat. I made a long speech to the people. I informed them that the British troops had now finally entered Mogoung, and would never again leave it. That we wished to be at peace with all our neighbours and to encourage trade. I promised pardon to all persons for all offences committed against the British Government prior to my arrival in Mogoung, save and except those persons who had been engaged in or abetted the murder of the Chinaman, Loon Pine. I censured the Myoke for his breach of promise made to me at Tsenbo, and called upon him to explain his absence and neglect. The Myoke, who was evidently very ill at ease, excused himself by saying that he had been so frightened that we would punish him on account of the murder of the Chinaman having taken place in his

jurisdiction that he had thought it best to run away. He, however, said that now his fears had been removed, and that he would continue to serve the British Government faithfully. He was evidently a weak man, and though I doubted much that he would ever make a trustworthy servant, yet I was bound by my promise and accepted his statement. I then continued to explain to the people that I had pardoned Poh Saw and that he was to remain Myoke, and I ordered them to obey all orders received from him in my name.

I further informed the assembly of the power of the British, and of the absolute inutility of any resistance to their authority; I told them of my intention to take the British troops to the Jade Mines, in order that I might see and understand how they were worked, and I gave the Myoke to understand that he would have to accompany me. I then dismissed the assembly. During the day Captain O'Donnell and myself fixed on a place for the erection of a fort. It was on a piece of vacant ground in the middle of the town, bounded on one side by the river, of which the banks were very steep, forming a natural defence in this direction.

Monday, 16th.—The mornings were very cold and foggy, the thermometer going down as low as 45 or 50°. Though as soon as the fog cleared, generally about 9 o'clock, the sun came out and the weather was delightful. To-day was employed in writing and despatching letters to the various Kachin chiefs whom the Myoke had neglected to call in. In the afternoon we held a council of war, and it was determined that we should remain at Mogoung ten days to give time for the Kachins to arrive and for negotiations to be carried out. Mr. Warry, on behalf of the Chinese, strongly advocated this delay. The military were rather opposed to it, as they would be consuming their stores, and as it would give time for the Kachins to collect and oppose us if they intended to do so. But the arguments in favour of delay prevailed, especially as we knew nothing of the road, and as we found we could procure from the villages in the neighbourhood supplies of grain to feed our transport animals.

17th January.—There was nothing particular for me to do

to-day, so, having given orders that carpenters and labourers must be provided to build the fort and that supplies of timber and bamboo must be collected, I went out with my gun to see what was to be found in the neighbourhood. I wandered about for some time on the plain without seeing anything to shoot, but at last coming to a small swamp I bagged a snipe and two common teal (duck and drake). In the evening, as I was advised by Shwé Gya that it would not be safe for me to sleep separate from the camp, I removed from the Zayat I had slept in last night, and for the rest of our stay in Mogoung I lived in my tent in camp on the sand bank.

18th to 21st.—During these days nothing of importance occurred. The stockade for the military police who were to garrison Mogoung was rapidly pushed forward under the direction of Capt. O'Donnell. Houses for the Assistant Commissioner, Commandant of Military Police, and the Doctor were also commenced. Stores of paddy were collected from the neighbouring villages, surveys of the surrounding country were made, information as to roads, villages, and supplies, collected and tabulated, and generally all things done preparatory to an advance to the Jade Mines on the 27th January. Although I was daily expecting some Kachin chiefs to come into Mogoung yet none arrived. One or two men of no importance used to come in every day, but they had no authority from their chiefs to make any arrangements with us. They appeared merely to come in to look on and see what we were doing. I took every opportunity of shewing them our large guns so as to impress them with our strength, and I always gave them friendly letters to their chiefs. I also sent letters by men who came to see the Roman Catholic missionary and by others, so that if some letters miscarried, some at least might find their way to their destination.

One Kachin, who had come in from the south, brought us news of the defeat of some rebels at Mawlu by our troops. This I knew to be true, having received news of it officially. He further said that our troops were at Mohnyin and were advancing on Mogoung from the south, and that they would

arrive on the 27th. He said he had seen their camp fires himself on a hill only four or five marches from Mogoung. During these days I had frequent interviews with the Myoke, and the more I saw of him the less I liked him. He always put difficulties in the way of doing anything, and though he pretended to be working for us, I never could make out exactly what he did except those things which I absolutely ordered him to do. He pretended to be using his influence to call in the Kachins, but it all came to nothing as they did not come. He was continually urging me to delay our start; he did not wish to accompany us to the mines as the Kachins had not had time to consult, and would be sure to attack us if we started without their consent. If we removed troops from Mogoung the town would be burnt during our absence. These and many other reasons were advanced in order to persuade me to delay our start. I was determined, and he at last saw that further remonstrance on his part was futile. He then endeavoured to get the Chinamen to persuade me to delay, or at any rate to leave him behind when we went, but the Chinamen refused to interfere.

Sunday, 22nd.—This morning, about nine o'clock, news was brought to me by Shwé Gya that the Myoke had not been seen since the previous night, and that there was no doubt that he had again run away. There was no use in hesitating longer. I determined, if possible, to capture him, and keep him a prisoner. We had reason to believe that he had gone to the village of Mohmoung, where it was known his chief adherents resided. I at once took fifty men and some mounted police, under the command of Capt. Armstrong, Cheshire Regiment, and hurried to the village, which was about five miles distant. We surrounded the village unperceived and searched every house without, however, finding the Myoke. Several men attempted to escape from the village and these were arrested. We took about a dozen muskets and a number of spears and swords from the houses. Of the men captured all were allowed to go free with the exception of two, one, who was recognised as a slave belonging to the Myoke, and another, who had

resisted capture and in whose house three guns and a number of swords were found. This man afterwards turned out to be Boh Tee, one of the Myoke's strongest adherents and a bold and dangerous fellow. I considered myself very fortunate to have captured him. By the flight of the Myoke all my plans were again upset. It was possible, nay more, it was almost certain that he had been treacherously working against us all the time, and that instead of using his influence with the Kachins in our favour he had been using it against us. This would at once account for the fact that no Kachin chiefs of any importance had come in to visit us. I had to consider what was best to be done under the circumstances. I should have liked to have appointed Shwé Gya to be Myoke, but as he was not a Shan such an appointment would have been most unpopular. The Nakan who had come to meet me was a man of small authority and with nothing to recommend him. But the runaway Myoke had a cousin, the son of the elder brother of the murdered Moug Kulla. This man had the first hereditary claim and he had not been on good terms with his cousin. He had also been among the men who had come to meet me when his cousin had previously bolted. I determined therefore to make him nominal Myoke, while the real power would be in the hands of Shwé Gya. I discussed his appointment with several of the head men of the town and with the Chinese merchants, who were all agreeable to his being made Myoke.

Monday, 23rd.—I held a meeting of the Loogyis (elders) to-day, when I informed them that in consequence of the Myoke having run away a second time I could no longer trust him, and that I had deposed him and appointed his cousin in his place with Shwé Gya as Nakan.

In the afternoon letters were brought in from three Kachin Saubwas residing on the hills between this and the Jade Mines. They professed friendship and promised to meet me at the village of Kamine on the way to the Jade Mines with presents. Now that the Myoke had been deposed the people became less afraid of speaking about him, and I had soon good reason for supposing that he had been implicated in the murder of the

Chinaman, and that Boh Tee, the man whom I had captured at Mohnoung, was one of the actual murderers. I also heard many stories of the greed and oppression of the Myoke, and of the insolent way in which he had been in the habit of speaking of the British. There is no doubt that he was a true type of the Burmese official—cringing and obsequious in the presence of his superiors—bullying and rapacious to his inferiors—a liar, a braggard, a bully, and a coward. He had always at his disposition a number of bravoos who did not scruple at any deed of violence which promised to be profitable to them. Most of these bravoos had run away with him, but one or two still remained in the town. One of them, by name Oung Bwing, who had been appointed head man of a neighbouring village was still present. I had him arrested.

24th January.—This day passed as the previous days; nothing positive could be learnt of the late Myoke's proceedings except that he had gone to the hills to raise the Kachins against us. I had now to send letters to the latter warning them that Poh Saw was no longer Myoke, and cautioning them against being tempted by him to do anything hostile towards us. Two officers with some mounted infantry started to-day to explore the road as far as Kamine, and to bring back trustworthy intelligence from that place.

25th January.—I informed Shwé Gya and the Myoke that I should require them to accompany me to the Jade Mines, so that they could make necessary preparations; and I further arranged to leave Mr. Tworney, Assistant Commissioner, who had accompanied me from Bhamo, in charge of Mogoung until my return. With him I left Captain O'Donnell and all the military police with the exception of seventy-five Goorkhas. The fort in which they were to remain had been rapidly pushed on and was now surrounded by a substantial bamboo palisade. I gave orders that the Boh Tee and the other prisoner had to be sent down to Bahmo, as I was afraid that an attempt might be made to rescue them if they were left in the insecure stockade in Mogoung. Late at night Lieutenant Maule, Cheshire Regiment, who was one of the officers who had ridden to Kamine

the previous day, returned to camp. He had spent the whole day from daylight in coming down the river from Kamine in a small canoe. His report was satisfactory. It was thirty-three miles by land to Kamine, and the party had not been in any way interfered with by the Kachins. The road, however, was reported to be very difficult, requiring a great deal of jungle cutting and repairing before it would be passable for our transport animals.

26th January.—We moved our camp to-day to the opposite side of the river, so that we might make an early start next morning. In the afternoon the rest of the party arrived in safety from Kamine by land. The Shan guides of the party, who had been furnished with transport ponies, not being accustomed to such a long ride, were very much exhausted and were terribly galled by the saddles. After dark a subordinate\* official belonging to a village near Mogoung, and who on Shwé Gya's recommendation I had taken about with me once or twice out shooting as a guide, came to my tent, and after a good deal of hesitation made a statement to me, clearly implicating the late Myoke, Boh Tee, our prisoner, and about four other people in the murder of Loon Pine. As I had to start early in the morning I gave him a letter to the Assistant Commissioner, with a request that he would fully investigate the matter. †

27th January.—This morning at an early hour the whole camp was astir, and the bustle and excitement consequent on a renewal of the march, after a ten day's halt, was great. The column which left Mogoung for the Jade Mines consisted of 100 Rifles 12th Kelat-i-Gilzais, 75 Goorkhas, 60 Europeans of the Cheshire Regiment, and two guns of the mountain battery. As before, we were accompanied by Mr. Warry, of the Chinese Consular Service, a survey party, a forest officer, a Roman Catholic clergyman, a Field Hospital Under Surgeon, Major Barron, and large quantity of commissariat stores and transport

\* This man turned out very well, and after the murder of Shwé Gya and the rising in Mogoung he was nominated to be Myoke.

† This information afterwards turned out to be correct, and the informer was handsomely rewarded.

animals. In addition, I had with me Shwé Gya, Poh Myah, the new Myoke, and some dozen of their armed followers. We took with us provisions for seven days only, as we should meet our boats at Kamine in the course of a few days. The men were in high spirits; and the idea of entering an absolutely new and unknown country, with the additional excitement of the chance of having a fight, added much to the charm of the march we were commencing. The road for the first mile and a half ran up the bank of the river through elephant grass, which had been burnt to allow us to pass. This grass, which had been from eight to twelve feet high before being set on fire, now consisted of tall stalks blackened and charred by the flame. As we had to force our way through these, and as there was a heavy fog, the faces and clothes of the whole column were speedily as black as if they had been down a coal mine. This country, together with all the plain round about Mogoung, and the greater part of Mogoung itself, is all under water when the river is in flood. At present it is some twenty feet above the water level.

After leaving the bank of the river, the track led in a north-west direction to a small stream known by the name of the Nwémi Choung.\* We followed the course of this stream for the rest of the day, and we crossed and re-crossed it on several occasions. During the march we were generally in a forest, but in one or two places we came upon small Kachin clearances where rice and opium were cultivated, and where a couple of huts marked the temporary residences of the cultivators. About 3 p.m. we reached a place where we halted, and commenced clearing the ground for a camping place. The camp at this place was very confined, but there was a good stream, and quantities of bamboo to serve as fodder for the mules. Every night our camp was carefully guarded against any attack being made under cover of darkness; but the forest at this camping place was so dense that it appeared impossible that it could be reached except by the narrow path running through it. This path was the remains of the main road which formerly

\* Choung is the Burmese name for stream.

led from Mogoung to Kamine; but for several years it had not been used, all traders preferring to go by water, which was considered to be the safer route.

28th January.—This morning we made an early start, and continued our march. Soon the morning fog turned to rain, and we had a prospect of a wet day. We followed a track which was fairly well beaten, but which led through very dense forest, sometimes leading us straight over spurs of steep hills and sometimes following for 100 yards or more the rocky bed of a mountain stream. I was riding with Shwé Gya and the Myoke somewhere about the middle of the column. The former once or twice made remarks that he did not remember portions of the road, and that it seemed to him to be unfamiliar. We passed one or two old Kachin stockades, which had evidently been built at convenient points on the road so as to command it. I saw that Shwé Gya was becoming more and more uneasy, especially when he began to ascend a very steep hill. Here, luckily, we met three or four Kachins on the road, and after stopping and speaking to them, Shwé Gya informed me that we had mistaken the road, and that we were marching along the main road to the Thama Kachin's chief town. As the Thama Saubwa had made no signs of friendship, and as he was known to be a great friend of the deposed Myoke, I at once caused a halt to be sounded, and endeavoured to get to the front of the column. This was no easy business, as the path was barely sufficient for the mules to pass along in single file, and the jungle on either side was very dense. After getting to the top of the hill the road improved, and as the advanced guard had got some mile or more ahead on comparatively open ground, I had some difficulty in overtaking them. When the whole column had been stopped we held a consultation, the result of which was that we came to the conclusion to return to the place where we had spent the previous night. This order had to be communicated to the rear guard, who were obliged to retire before the rest of the column could move. To do this was a matter of some difficulty, and involved considerable delay; but at length the

whole force had faced about, and were retracing their steps. In the meantime a heavy rain had come on, and every one was wet through. We had marched about five miles before finding out our mistake, so when we arrived at the place whence we had started in the morning we had already marched ten miles. Under these circumstances we determined to halt again in last night's camp. We repaired the old huts as well as we were able; but as the whole place was dirty and muddy, and as the rain continued to fall, we spent a very uncomfortable night. We discovered that from the camping place there were two small pathways leading out in the same direction, and that owing to some mistake the advance guard at starting had taken the wrong path, and the whole of the column had very naturally followed the advance guard.

Sunday, 29th.—In the morning the rain had ceased, but we ourselves, the soldiers and followers, were all wet through and presented a most draggled appearance. The forest too and grass through which we had to march were all as wet as possible. The road all day lay through thick forest with hills on either side. We could not at any time see the configuration of the country; in fact we could seldom see fifty yards in any direction; and the path was occasionally wholly obliterated by large trees having fallen across it.

In the afternoon we reached the Nampoung\* Choung, where there was a clearance made by the Kachins for growing paddy. On the edge of this was a Kachin house, in which were residing one or two families, including women and children. This was a very sure sign that no attack would be made on us at that place. Had the Kachins had any intention of fighting us, the women and children would have been removed to a place of safety. On the plain the sun was shining brightly, so that we determined to halt to allow of the men's kits and bedding being dried in the sun. The Kachins in the house were very much interested in our proceedings, and they supplied us with some vegetables. A large Kachin clearance was visible on a hill

\* Nam is the Shan word for water, and is generally prefixed to the name of rivers and streams.

about half a mile distant, and it was proposed to have some practice with the mountain guns to shew the Kachins how far our guns would carry; but, as we thought we might alarm the neighbourhood, and as there was reported to be a large Kachin village over the brow of the hill, it was thought more advisable not to fire them.

Monday, 30th.—At six this morning I left the camp with the advance guard, and marched generally in a westerly direction. The marching was easy, being almost entirely over a large grass-covered plain, where the track was easily discernible. After advancing about six miles without meeting with any serious obstacle we reached a deep stream, with high banks, called the Namping. This stream could not be crossed except by making a bridge. As it was only about fifty feet broad we halted the advance guard and set to work to make one. We first utilized the trunk of a large tree, which we found stuck in the bed of the river, as a foundation on which to erect a superstructure. Then with the trunks of trees, cut down from the adjacent forest and lashed to the original foundation, we constructed the framework of a bridge. Between the trunks thus fastened together we inserted smaller pieces of wood composed of the branches of the cut down trees, and then, with the twigs and bundles of elephant grass laid crosswise over the logs and covered with earth, we had a bridge sufficiently strong and compact to allow the laden mules to cross. About three hours were occupied in making this bridge, during which time the men who were not working and the animals had had a good rest. Having crossed this stream the march towards Kamine was continued, and after some two miles had been covered, we found ourselves on the banks of the Namhong river. Half-an-hour's march down stream brought us to the point where the Namhong and Endaw streams unite and form the Mogoung river. Exactly at the junction of these two streams is the village of Kamine, to which we had been directing our steps since we left Mogoung. Almost at the same time that we arrived opposite the village the boats with commissariat stores, etc., which had been sent by river, arrived in sight and were

available to assist us in crossing the river. By three o'clock the whole of the column had arrived and encamped outside the village on some open ground.

The Thoogyee or head man of the village, called Shwó Yan, was very friendly and gave us all the assistance in his power. Kamine\* is splendidly situated on a small hill close to the river, at the point where its two main branches unite—the larger branch, the Nampoung, coming from the north, and the smaller branch coming from the Endaugyi Lake in the southwest. In former times it was a flourishing village, being about half way between the rice-producing plains of Endaw and the town of Mogoung. It was also a depôt to which the Kachins used to come to exchange india-rubber, amber, and other hill produce for such articles as came by river from Mandalay and Rangoon. In the Kachin Rebellion, however, it shared the fate of other towns on the river bank, and had been ravaged and destroyed. Out of about 150 houses, of which the village used to consist, there are now only twenty-five, and these are of the poorest description. There are, however, pagodas and monasteries which bear witness to its former wealth. But although monasteries remain there are no priests; the last one died some six months ago, and the inhabitants up to this time have not been able to induce another to take his place. There is even now a little trade in the village. There are some half-dozen shops where cotton and silk handkerchiefs and other Manchester cotton goods can be bought, together with salt, salt fish, and other articles in daily use among the Burmese themselves or among their Shan and Kachin neighbours.

\* Country spirits and opium were also for sale here, and one or two Chinamen had established themselves as petty traders in jade and other country produce. In the evening I received letters from Kansí Noug and Kansí Hla, the two brothers who rule over the Kachin hills where the jade quarries are situated. These two men are the most powerful of the Saubwas in this neighbourhood, and I had been most anxious to hear from them. Their letters were respectful, but they were evidently written

\* A fort has since been built at this place.

with the view of inducing us to remain at Mogoung. They acknowledged the receipt of my letter, but advised me to remain where I was until they could make arrangements to meet me with all the other Saubwas with whom, they wrote, they had not yet had time to communicate. As soon as I got this letter I wrote a reply that I had already left Mogoung and that I was encamped at Kamine, which place I should leave next morning to continue my march to the Jade Mines; and that I hoped they would meet me on my arrival. I reiterated my former message that the British troops were coming up as friends unless they were opposed on the road, when they would then know how to act. This letter, which was written in Burmese in my name and sealed with the stamp of the Deputy Commissioner of Bhamo, was accompanied by another to the same effect signed by the Myoke and by the Nakan, and stamped with an elephant. This elephant stamp had been invariably used by the rulers of Mogoung in their communications with the Kachins, and I was informed by Shwé Gya that unless a document was stamped with this stamp, it would not be considered by the Kachins as an official document. I borrowed two ponies from Captain Triscott and sent off native messengers with orders to go with all haste and deliver these letters to the Saubwa and return at once with his answer.

The price of salt at this village I learnt was four annas per viss, or, at the present rate of exchange (1s. 4d. per rupee), equivalent to about fourpence for three pounds. Paddy was 100 rupees per 100 baskets, and rice four rupees per basket. Fresh fish at this time of the year is plentiful and good.

At Kamine we were able to get more approximately than heretofore correct news regarding the route to the Jade Mines. From the village of Kamine there are two roads to them—the first route partly by water and the remainder by land; the second entirely by land. By the first route boats would have to be taken up the Endaw river till the mouth of the Namyah stream was reached, thence the Namyah stream would have to be ascended to a place called Namyah Kyoukseip.\* From

\* Or the stone wharf on the Namyah.

Namyah Kyoukseip the remainder of the journey would be by land. By the alternative route the road lay inland nearly due west until we hit of the Endaw river above the mouth of the Namyah stream. The Endaw river had then to be crossed, after which a hill path led direct to the Uru river on which the Jade Mines were being worked. The boats which accompanied us were too large to ascend the Namyah stream, which is only navigable at this time of the year by canoes; and the way by water would also occupy a longer time, so it was decided that we should move up our whole force to the point where the Endaw river would have to be crossed, and that, having established a temporary stockade there, we should leave our boats, tents, extra commissariat supplies, together with a sufficient guard, whilst a small fighting column pressed on to the Jade Mines.

January 31st.—Our march to-day, on leaving Kamine, lay for two or three miles over a plain, parts of which were exceedingly swampy, with long elephant grass on each side. The path was perfectly passable for men, and half-a-dozen ponies might have got along without much difficulty; but it was quite impracticable for a long line of laden animals. For about a mile every bit of the road had to be made by cutting down quantities of elephant grass and spreading it over the surface of the swamp. Every available man was employed in this work, and after a great deal of trouble, during which two or three mules were nearly bogged, we managed to pass the obstacle. The whole of the road was through long grass, but at length we again struck the river, which here flowed between steep banks, and which varied from three to eight feet in depth. Here we had to form a camp, which would contain all our extra mules and stores, together with a sufficient garrison to defend it whilst we should be away at the Jade Mines. The ground was entirely covered with grass some eight or ten feet high, which was so thick that a man could barely force his way through it. The way we cleared this grass was by making a party of men form up in close order, and then by marching forward and throwing their weight against it the grass was

gradually pushed down on the ground, where it lay, and was soon trampled into a sort of very rough carpet. This carpet, however, had afterwards to be all cleared away through fear of it catching fire. On this the tents were pitched, and the transport animals tethered. On the other side of the river, at the distance of about a mile, hills rose from the plain, and on these hills we could make out some Kachin villages. Suffer Ally, the Kachin interpreter, told us there was a Shan village, called Sekaw, at the edge of the plain, and he volunteered to go across to this village and see the head man. He accordingly went, and soon returned with two or three men from the Shan village and with some Kachins. The latter belonged to the Merip family, to which family also belonged Kansai Nong and Kansai Hla, the Saubwas of the Jade Mines.

February 1st.—Halted to-day, in order to build a defensible post for the accommodation of those who are to remain here. During the day the Kachin Saubwa of Sekaw, with a following of about twenty men, came into camp, bringing with him a pair of elephant's tusks as a present, and as a sign of friendship to the British. In return he was presented with a blanket, a hanging lamp, and a looking glass, with which he expressed himself much pleased. He was very anxious to see and handle our guns and revolvers, and he was shewn a little practice, which pleased him much. The Martini-Henry rifles with which all our men were armed especially interested him. One of the officers had with him a small Martini-Henry carbine, and with this he took a shot at a large kite sitting on a tree at the opposite side of the river, about a hundred yards distant. To the surprise of us all, and especially to that of the Saubwa and the Kachins who were with him, the kite was knocked over. The effect of this shot was so good that we refused further experiments at the time, lest the good opinion he had formed of our shooting powers should be lessened. To-day also another Saubwa, belonging to the Lephaie tribe, came into camp. He was on his way to Endaugyi, so I gave him some small presents and sent letters by him to the Endaugyi Saubwas telling them to expect our arrival at that place. The survey party to-day

climbed a hill in the neighbourhood, and obtained a glimpse of the great Endaugyi lake. They estimated its distance, as the crow flies, at about twenty-five miles only.

February 2nd.—At my request Captain Triscott agreed to another day's halt, as I was anxious, if possible, to hear from the Jade Mines' Saubwa before leaving this place. The halt also gave more time to complete the defences of the camp. During the day, accompanied by Captain Triscott and some of the officers, I paid a return visit to the Sekaw Saubwa. His village lies in the forest on some high ground just on the borders of the plain. On the plain the paddy had been all cut, and on the stubble we saw many jungle fowl and some very large cranes. From the plain a foot path follows the course of a small runner which emerges from the hills and leads into the village. Before entering the village on the sides of the path are the usual wooden posts to which buffaloes are fastened when they are sacrificed. Near the posts were numerous skulls and other bones of buffaloes. After passing these posts we were in the village. It is a very straggling place, and the houses were all some distance from each other. Lots of pigs and fowls were running about. The house of the Saubwa stood by itself about the centre of the village. It was the largest house and was conspicuous from having in front a number of logs of wood of very great girth supporting the roof. As the roof merely consisted of thatch it was evident that these enormous posts were for show and not for use. I at first thought they must be teak, but on closer inspection I saw that they belonged to some much softer tree. We entered at one end of the long house by steps, and walked the whole length along a passage near the left side of the house. On the right hand side of this passage were numerous doors opening into separate rooms or compartments. When we reached the far end of the passage there was a sort of public room with a fireplace in the middle. Round this fireplace were spread mats on which we sat down. Before long the Saubwa and two or three followers appeared. The former sat down near us and we had a long conversation, which was interpreted for us by Father Cadoux, who formed one of the



party. We conversed with him for about half-an-hour, and he produced some native spirit in hollow bamboos which we drank with him before taking our departure.

Some men of the column had been sent forward to-day with guides to cut the road for to-morrow's advance. The guides, who were Kachins, shewed the road and assisted to cut jungle as far as their boundary, which was only some four miles along the road, but nothing would induce them to go beyond this boundary. They said that beyond was the property of another Saubwa, and that if they shewed the way to troops, or made a road without the other Saubwa's consent, that it might cause a feud between them.

This was not quite satisfactory as regarded our progress, and it shewed that all the Kachins were not at present favourable to our advance. However nothing more could be done, so all the troops who were to advance on the morrow were moved across the river, so as to be able to make an early start. Instructions were given to the officer who remained behind in charge of the camp, and all precautions taken against the camp being surprised during our absence.

February 3rd.—This morning we marched at daylight with our reduced column in light fighting order. We took with us 125 mules carrying seven days' provisions, and the men carried two days' rations in addition with them. We left our tents behind us at the camp, and took nothing with us but what was absolutely necessary. After passing over the plain we reached the village of the Saubwa whom I had visited the previous day. He and all his villagers were on the alert to see us pass, and I think that they really wished that we should have a successful march.

On leaving the village we at once began to ascend the hills, under the shade of dense jungle, which effectually shut in our view. After marching three or four miles we came to the limit of the hill owned by the Saubwa through whose village we had passed. Up to this point we had marched over ground which had been cleared of jungle, but henceforth all the clearing and road making had to be done as we advanced. The Kachin

guides who accompanied us refused to proceed further, and we were now dependent on a Shan whom I had induced to accompany us from the village of Sekaw. In the evening we halted at a halting place in some dense jungle near a stream. Every morsel of the ground had to be cleared before we could commence to build our huts. The Goorkhas built me a most comfortable hut of cane and leaves, which I shared with Captain Triscott; and they continued to do this every night until we returned to where we had left our tents.

Saturday, 4th.—After leaving our camp this morning we had to pass over one small range of hills, and then we travelled for about a mile down the bed of a stream. In places we were absolutely in the stream, and at places among the densest description of rattan and other canes, which grew abundantly in the swamp near its bed. This part of the march was most trying both to men and animals, for, although the weather was cool, yet the hard work in deep mud, from which all sorts of noxious vapours rose, caused the men to perspire to a very great degree, and was most enervating. After following this stream for some distance we arrived, about the middle of the day, on an open plain where a quantity of paddy had been grown. This was the paddy land belonging to some Lephaie Kachins who lived at the village of Namnooyan, in the immediate neighbourhood. We had held no communication with the Kachins from this village, who belonged to an entirely different tribe from those with whom we had made friends yesterday, and we were unaware whether they were hostile or friendly. We saw about a dozen men on the far side of the plain, who on seeing us disappeared into the jungle. We therefore caused the front of our column to halt to allow the main body and rear guard to come up, and a rest for dinner was made on the open ground. During this halt I went with Shwé Gya and a few Burmese to induce the Kachins to enter into communication with us. They were very frightened at first, but gradually their shyness wore off. From them we learnt that their village Namnooyan was on the Namyah stream, and that the main road from the Jade Mines to Namyah Kyoukseip, where the

jade was put into boats, ran near it. The distance to Namyah Kyoukseip we calculated would be between three and four miles. The villagers said that their head man had heard of our approach and, thinking that we would have come by Namyah Kyoukseip, had gone to that place to meet us. I did not believe this, and I had no doubt that he, being afraid to commit himself one way or the other, had kept out of our way. We engaged here some men to cut the road for us for about two miles through the jungle on to the main road. This they did, and we paid them for their trouble. At about three in the afternoon we reached what they told us was the main road to the Jade Mines. After what they said I expected to have found something of a good road, but there was little more of a road than the one by which we had travelled so far. It was rather more marked owing to more people having used it, but that was all. Soon after getting on to the road we met some Kachins carrying down loads of jade to the river. This was the first we had seen. Some were carrying the jade in baskets slung over their foreheads, and others were carrying it slung on bamboos, which two or more men carried between them. These men said that this was the third day since they had left the jade quarries. They also told us that there was no talk of opposing our progress, and that the place was in its usual state. We encamped for the night in thick jungle, at a place called Lagoon Sekkan.

Sunday, 5th.—On the road to-day I was much pleased at hearing from Kansi Noun and Kansi Hla, the Saubwas at the Jade Mines. The two messengers I had sent from Kamine met us with letters. The letters were to the effect that the Saubwas hoped that we would halt at the Sekkan\* on the Uru river, where there was plenty of grass and good water, and that they would meet us there. They wrote that they wished to be friendly with the British, as they had always been with the rulers at Mogoung; but they stated that, though they were anxious to be friends, yet they could not be responsible for what some bad men might do. Shwé Gya agreed with me that this letter was most satisfactory, and we considered that our

\* Sekkan means halting-place.

peaceable advance to the Jade Mines was assured. The early part of the march to-day was very trying. It was almost entirely up hill. The jungle consisted of very large forest trees, and the undergrowth was composed in many places entirely of bamboo. We came across endless varieties of ferns and creepers, and crossed several streams. On each stream there was a halting-place, and often a small hut, for the convenience of the Kachins bringing down jade. We met several men again to-day who were thus employed. These halting-places are all named after the small mountain stream on which they are situate. We passed in succession the Natlinban, the Sinbwéoon, and the Nantine halting-places. From the latter the ascent was long, but having accomplished it we reached a sort of table land, which went by the name of Kawapoon. This was the watershed between the Irrawaddy and the Chindwin rivers, and from where we were we could see the hills extending to the west, beyond the valley of the Nantine stream.

During the course of this march we passed a path leading to some salt springs on the Nantine stream. Shwé Gya informed me that in the year 1228 B.E., during the previous war with the British, when salt could not be imported from Lower Burma, he had manufactured salt from these springs. He worked for two months with three cooking pots, and made 500 viss of salt, which he sold at 1 rupee 8 annas a viss, equivalent to about one shilling a pound. After the peace, when salt could be again brought up the river, it did not pay to continue the manufacture. The spring from which the salt is obtained is said to be a spring of warm water.

There were a considerable quantity of large trees about here, but only two species, the Gungaw and Lekyoh, were said to be hard and durable and were used for timber. Here, too, we saw, for the first time, the india-rubber tree growing in its natural state. The india-rubber tree, as is well known, is a species of banyan or fig tree. A seed is dropped by birds or otherwise deposited on some tree. Gradually the plant surrounds the main stem of the tree on which it grows with its roots. In

time the original tree is killed, and in its place the india-rubber tree remains.

The way in which india-rubber is extracted from the tree is as follows. At a certain time of the year, when the sap is rising, cuts, each in the shape of a V, about six inches long and half an inch deep, are made in the bark of the trees. From the point of the V the sap exudes, and forms a kind of sticky substance, whitish at first, but rapidly changing to a dull brown. This substance thus exuded is gathered by the Kachins, who roll it into balls, each about the size of a very large orange, and send it to market in this form. I bought one of these balls for one rupee. The incisions in the bark must not be made too near the root of the tree; if they are so made, a greater quantity of the rubber is obtained at the time, but the tree will die. The Kachins well knowing this are very careful not to tap the trees too low.

The right of gathering india-rubber on certain hills is a fruitful source of quarrels among the Kachin tribes. It is one of the most valuable productions of the forests. In 1887-88 the right of buying india-rubber from the Kachins was sold to a Chinaman for one lac of rupees. This monopoly, which was one of the legacies we received from the late Burmese Government, has now been abolished, a tax on the amount of india-rubber brought into the town of Bhamo being established instead. This measure will be very popular with the Kachin Saubwas. On some hills the india-rubber tree is carefully planted and looked after by the inhabitants. It is especially grown in this way in the neighbourhood of the villages.

About 2 p.m. we reached a plain, having descended considerably from the Kawapoon plateau. It was delightful again getting into open ground, out of the dense and dismal forest through which our to-day's march of seven miles had been. From 7 a.m. till 2 p.m. we had been steadily marching, but we had only been able to accomplish seven miles. The plain which we were now on was about one mile long by half a mile broad, and had been cultivated with paddy. A portion of it was very wet and swampy, but a portion was quite dry. On the dry

part we halted, and prepared to encamp for the night. On the edge of the plain was one Kachin house. This was carefully shut up, and without inhabitants, so we did not disturb it, but all camped out on the middle of the plain. The elephant grass and bamboos which grew on the edge of the plain, together with the paddy straw from which the paddy had been thrashed, afforded abundance of material for building and roofing huts. This plain was situated on the Namyu stream which joins the Uru, which is a tributary of the Chindwin river. During the night there was a sharp thunderstorm, which wet us all, and converted the field on which we were encamped into something like a bog.

February 6th.—Left our camp at 7 a.m. The first part of the road was very wet, the mud and water reaching, on the road, up to the bellies of our mules, and in places forcing us to leave the path and cut a new way for ourselves through the forest. After several ascents and descents we reached the Gungaw hill, so called from its being covered by trees of that name. A road through a rocky gorge, where great masses of white marble-like stone projected here and there, brought us to the Namthein stream at about nine o'clock. This stream we crossed and recrossed several times, the water being, as a rule, about up to our knees, and the bed of the stream being about fifty yards broad.

At about twelve o'clock we reached the point where the Namthein joins the Uru, and here we considered that our journey was for the present at an end. We had arrived within the jade district. After reconnoitring the place we crossed the Namthein once more, and took up our position on a tongue of land at the junction of the Namthein and Uru, having the Uru on the south-west and the Namthein on the south-east of our camp. Only on the north could we be approached by land.

Our camp was on a lovely spot. It faced southwards and commanded a view of the junction of the two streams. On our right was the Uru, a beautiful stream of from 75 to 100 yards from bank to bank, as clear as crystal and alive with fish, which kept rising to the surface in the evening like trout in an

English stream. The bed was generally rocky, full of large waterworn boulders, but for a short distance above our camp there was a very deep pool under the opposite bank, while the shore on our side was sandy and gravelly, and sloped very gradually towards the deep part. On our left was the Namthein stream which was much smaller, with the banks on both sides densely wooded. The spot which we selected for a camp was a beautiful triangular piece of ground, covered with short grass and a few bushes on the northern portion, and with a long tongue of shingle and sand stretching southwards to the place where the streams met. It was evident that in the rainy season the whole of our encamping ground would be covered with water. To the south we could see a considerable distance, but on the other sides our view was bounded by jungle-covered hills close at hand. Looking up the Uru river one saw a range of high hills, on which we were told were the Jade Mines. I was disappointed at finding no Kachins here to meet us as they promised, so I sent off some four Burmese to a village, which I was told was distant less than a mile, on the other side of the Uru river. From them I received another letter from Kansî Nong, saying that he had given orders to all Saubwas to treat us well, and that he would come and see me, with presents, on the Uru stream. As we had arrived at such a pleasant place nobody was averse to halting where we were for one day. Several Kachins from the village visited us to-day, and appeared very friendly.

7th February.—Waited the whole day in anticipation of Kansî Nong coming in. In the morning some of our officers, who apparently wished to be the first to see the Jade Mines, rendered too confident perhaps by the assurances of friendship sent by Kansî Nong, set off for a walk in their direction. They were not well received by the people, and were warned not to go forward. However, they persisted, and were at length met by a number of armed men, when they quite properly thought discretion the better part of valour and returned to the camp. They were most indignant, and would have liked at once to take an armed party and have forced their way

through. I, however, explained to them that these men had committed no hostile act, and that they were most probably right in refusing to let Europeans go to the Jade Mines before the consent of their chief had been obtained. About four o'clock messengers from Kansî Nong came in to say that he had reached the village of Niensi on his way to meet me, but that he had been seized with dysentery, and had been obliged to halt. I at once despatched messengers to him asking him to hurry on, or to send us permission to go to the mines without him. I pointed out to him that we had a large number of mules, and that it was most difficult for us to get fodder for them. I did not believe in the dysentery of the Saubwa, and Shwé Gya, who up to this time had been quite positive that he would come to meet us, began to have his doubts that all was not right. I noticed, too, that fewer Kachins visited the camp to-day, and that no men carrying jade had passed through. Though most anxious not to waste time, yet I felt obliged to give Kansî Nong a chance to come in; I therefore induced Capt. Triscott, much against his will, to halt for another day.

8th February.—This was a most anxious day with me. All depended on Kansî Nong's answer whether we should arrive at the Jade Mines without bloodshed, or whether we should have to fight our way there, and be harassed the whole way on our return journey. I was confident, and so were all the officers who formed the column, that we could fight our way to the mines and overcome all opposition, but we were well aware that we would suffer severe loss. There was no doubt that Kansî Nong could have collected a considerable force to oppose us, and from his thorough knowledge of the country we would be under great disadvantages. I learnt to-day that messengers from the deposed Myoke of Mogoung together with several hostile Kachin chiefs, had arrived, and that they were using their utmost influence to induce Kansî Nong to resist us. The friendship of Kansî Nong was at this time a matter of the greatest importance. He was the head of the Merip Kachins, and as such could compel the submission of many inferior Merip Saubwas. I had reason to believe at this time

that the Lephaies, the other most important tribe in the neighbourhood, had promised to support the deposed Myoke. If the Merips were also to go against us, we should be fairly in the midst of a hostile country. The whole day was spent in uncertainty. About twelve o'clock I learnt that Kansi NOUNG had arrived in the village on the other side of the river, about half a mile from our camp, but still he did not come in. I asked Shwé Gya if he would go over to the camp, but he told me he dare not go. He had information that some Kachins had come down with the intention of murdering him, and were only waiting till they found him unguarded to carry out their purpose. He asked me if he might send out some of his men to kill the would-be assassins, and he was very sorry when I informed him that I could not give my sanction to such a proceeding. (Poor man he has since been murdered in his own house at Mogoung; probably by the same men.) Up to this time Shwé Gya had been most happy and cheery, full of anecdotes, and confident of success. Now, owing to the failure of Kansi NOUNG to come in, according to his promise, he was most despondent, thinking that I would lose confidence in him and that, as he expressed it, his face would be blackened before me. I tried to cheer him up, but it was of no avail. As he had far better means than I had of knowing what was going on I was very much disturbed, and I thought things looked very serious.

About four o'clock two men from Kansi NOUNG came into camp. One was a Kachin, and the other was a man whom I had previously known at Mogoung. He was well disposed to us, and had been formerly a trader in jade. He had started from Mogoung some days before us, and had promised me to act on our behalf with Kansi NOUNG. He had not taken any letters from me, as he said he should have more influence, and would be more trusted in his capacity as a jade merchant than as an envoy of the British. These men came with a message to the effect that Kansi NOUNG was still conferring with the other Saubwas, but that he would come in to-morrow. The man I had previously known also told me privately that, owing to the intrigues of the deposed Myoke, Kansi NOUNG was very

undecided. There were many strangers from a distance in his camp who were urging him to hostilities. Kansi NOUNG himself was inclined to peace; he had told the men from a distance that it was all very well for them to advocate war, as they were comparatively safe, while he would have to bear the whole brunt of an encounter with our forces. I made up my mind at once what to do. I told the messengers in front of the camp, so that all present should hear it, that if Kansi NOUNG was not in my camp before 10 o'clock in the morning, that I would order the column to advance, by force if necessary, on the Jade Mines; and that if any sort of disturbance took place, whether owing to the fault of his tribe or to the fault of any person at the mines, that I should hold him responsible.

When the messengers left the camp there was no longer any uncertainty as to what we would do to-morrow. The military were busy making all preparations for a fight if necessary. I still hoped that Kansi NOUNG would come in, but I was not sanguine. I think that this ultimatum, which I sent to Kansi NOUNG, decided the fate of the Expedition. It was a bold stroke, and though the risk was great, I considered that by delay our danger would only increase, whereas no possible advantage would accrue from it. Our Kachin interpreter, Suffer Ally, again did good service. He volunteered to go over to the camp of the possible enemy and use his influence on our behalf, and also to find out what was going on. I gladly accepted his offer.

February 9th.—Everything was ready for a start this morning for the Jade Mines. Captain Triscott had fixed the advancing force at 100 rifles and one gun, the rest of the force being required for the defence of the camp while we were away. When Suffer Ally returned, he said that Kansi NOUNG would come in, but that 10 o'clock was too early for him. Our only reply was to continue preparations for our advance, and by 9 o'clock the men had fallen in ready to start. Just at this time we saw a large party of armed men on the opposite side of the river, who kept advancing towards the camp. We made out that it was a friendly party, as we could see a man

in front carrying a fine pair of elephant's tusks. It turned out to be Kansi NOUNG and twelve Saubwas, together with about 100 followers, coming to pay me a friendly visit. I have never in my life experienced such a feeling of relief as when I made out what was happening. It was no light thing to be responsible for the loss of life which must have occurred in forcibly reaching the Jade Mines; and yet to have returned to Bhamo without having achieved the object of our expedition would have been worse. It would have given the Kachins such overweening confidence that any future expedition would have had a much more difficult task. As it was, and as it has been in all our dealings with natives in India and Burmah, "brag" carried the day. If it were not for "brag" I do not know how we could have conquered India. "Brag" on the part of the leaders, which is bred of confidence in the pluck of the soldiers, had in this case proved successful, and Kansi NOUNG had not dared to oppose us when he saw that we were determined to go in spite of him. I think the military were disappointed when they saw the approach of the Saubwa. I do not mean Captain TRISCOTT—for he knew as well as I did what a risk we were running with our small force—but the rank and file, who were anxious to have a fight, in hopes of gaining distinction and the Burmah Medal. The troops, who were ready to make a start, were now drawn up in a square round my hut, and the Saubwa and his followers were allowed to come into the camp between two lines of soldiers. A strict watch was also kept all round the camp to prevent any attempt at treachery.

All the officers attended the reception, Captain TRISCOTT and myself sitting in front of our hut door, and all the Kachin Saubwas on the ground in front of us. Then, on behalf of Kansi NOUNG, a very fine pair of elephant's tusks was presented to me as a token of friendship. All the Merip Saubwas were present and joined in the submission. I then addressed them through SHWÉ GYA, and informed them distinctly that all their rights in the Jade Mines would be respected; that while the British would undertake the responsibility of keeping the water-way open to traders, the responsibility for the safety of the traders,

through the Kachin Hills must rest with the Kachin Saubwas; and I informed them that the late Mogoung MYOKE was a rebel, by whom they must not be led astray. I then gave presents to all the Saubwas. Kansi NOUNG was presented with a fine mule, a blanket, a looking-glass, and some other things, while each of the lower Saubwas received a suitable present. One Saubwa, a Lephaie Kachin, from Namyah KYOUKSEIP, was not present. As I knew he had been in the camp of Kansi NOUNG I concluded that he was not favourable to our advance.

After this I dismissed the Saubwas, and at once the troops, as already told off, made a start. We crossed the Uru river, and after about half a mile we reached the Sanka stream, over which we found a temporary bamboo bridge; along this the troops, with the exception of the artillery, were able to march. The Sanka stream at this point makes a sudden turn, and on the land formed by the bend of the river is the village of Sanka. This is the last village until the quarry where the jade is worked is reached. The road here leaves the stream, nor is any water, with the exception of one small mountain torrent, to be met with on the way. In consequence of this Sanka is a village of importance, and a few Shan traders have settled here. These manage to make a scanty livelihood by selling rice and by carrying water to the people who come to quarry jade. Close to the village we saw one or two small quarries being worked, but we did not see any jade.

Leaving the village we again crossed the Sanka stream, and now-commenced a steady ascent. On the way we saw on the sides of the road, now almost hidden by brushwood and creepers, numerous holes resembling old wells. These had all at one time been jade workings. We continued our ascent for about three or four miles, and reached an altitude of about 1,500 feet above our camp. On the road up we met several parties of Kachins, but nothing worthy of notice occurred. At last we came to an open space in the jungle from which all trees had been cleared. This was pointed out to me as the site of the bazaar of the mines. When work is going briskly forward, that is in ordinary years from February till May or June, this

clearance is covered with huts of people who come up from Mogoung and other villages, and who make a living by supplying the workmen with food, tobacco, spirits, and other necessaries. At present the jungle, which had grown over the clearance during the last rainy season, had not been cut, nor was a single hut erected. About 200 yards beyond this we came upon the dry bed of a stream, where we saw a collection of about fifty houses and what appeared to be a large quarry, while all over the place were blocks of white stone of all sizes, some of which were tinged and streaked with green. We had arrived at the famous Jade Mine, known by the name of Maw-thit or the "New Mine." With the exception of Lieutenant Bayfield, who about the year 1838 had managed to reach one of the mines, no European had ever been allowed to see them. We were absolutely looking at those mines which, to the Chinese, have from time immemorial been considered to be the most valuable possession in the world—we were looking at them, not in the position of persons who were permitted by favour to such a high privilege, but as those who were there by right, and who had come to take possession of their treasures for and in the name of the British people.

It may not be out of place to give a short account of the country where the jade stone is met with and how it is generally worked.

The jade producing hills lie generally to the north-west of the Uru river, between that river and the Chindwin, of which it is a tributary. They extend over a considerable area, and at different periods jade has been worked at places four and five days' journey apart. I think I shall not be wrong in saying that the country where jade has been found extends over a belt from twenty to thirty miles in length, and from one to three miles broad. The mines are known by the name of "Maws," and they are divided into Upper and Lower Maws with reference to their position on the Uru river. The mines are all in the Kachin Hills, and no mine can be opened without the consent of the Kachin Saubwa of the hill on which it is proposed to work. Many small mines are opened each year, but when jade

of a valuable quality has been discovered in one neighbourhood, nearly all the searchers are attracted to this spot. There are several reasons for this. In the first place there is always safety in numbers; secondly, there is the extreme difficulty of procuring supplies of food and water, except where enough persons are congregated together to render it profitable for traders to come up from the plains; and thirdly, the rich Chinese traders all come with money to the market where the best stone is procured. The best jade used to be procured from the Lower Maws, where it was often found in large water-worn blocks; but at the present time the best is procured from the "Thit Maw" or "New Mine" to which we had marched. We saw the jade being worked. The quarry is entirely composed of a very hard white stone. This is worked by lighting fires under masses of the rock, and thus causing it to split into large fragments. When the stone has thus been split, the fragments are examined to see if they shew traces of the valuable green shade. If they do they are preserved, but if not they are thrown away. The amount thus thrown away is scattered in tons around the neighbourhood of the quarry, causing the whole place to look white and glistening in the sunshine.

As I have mentioned before, the Kachin Saubwa considered himself the owner of the mines; but as the jade was absolutely profitless to him unless he is able to dispose of it, and as there is no outlet for it except through Burmese territory, he was compelled by force of circumstances to sell it to Burmese subjects. As far as I could learn it had been the custom from time immemorial for the Saubwa to take 10 per cent. of all jade quarried by Kachins; Chinese Shans were allowed to work under the same conditions as Kachins; but Burmese or Shans were allowed to work without paying this percentage. Chinese did not work at the mines themselves; but they advanced money to the Kachins and other hill people and took repayment in jade. When a large block of jade had been quarried, and it was necessary to break the block in order to remove it, the Saubwa had his choice of the fragments. Half the price of this fragment was considered the share of the Burmese official, who

was appointed by the Burmese Government to superintend the Jade Mines, and the other half went to the Saubwa himself. In addition to this the Saubwa used to make money by supplying coolies and guards for removing the stone to the river. We endeavoured to buy some pieces of jade as mementos of the occasion, but it was evident that the people distrusted us and had hidden all the valuable pieces. However, nearly all the soldiers managed to secure some pieces of stone with traces of green in them, but most of them being valueless were thrown away on the march to camp. We did not remain long at the mines, as there was no water and we had no rations with us for the men. Our downward march to the camp was quickly and safely accomplished without incident.

February 10th, 11th, and 12th.—On these three days we marched back by the road, by which we had come, to the camp at Sekaw on the Endau river. Our progress was much quicker, as we had no roads to make and no jungle-clearing to do at our halting-places. The first day of our return journey was very rainy, and the ground became so slippery that our mules were continually sliding down the steep hills, some of them not being able to recover themselves till they had reached the bottom and had deposited their loads in the water there. We were all wet to the skin and so was much of the bedding before we reached our camp.

On the 11th I made a detour and visited the village of Namyah Kyoukseip, with a small party of European soldiers for an escort. The Saubwa was absent, but his brother, on his behalf, brought a spear and a peacock's tail as a sign of friendship. At this village there were two quarters—a Kachin quarter and a quarter inhabited by Shans. In the latter quarter there were several petty shops, and no doubt at times considerable trade must be carried on at the place. It was, however, at the present time in anything but a flourishing condition. At Namyah Kyoukseip news reached me of Mougong Poh Saw's proceedings. During our absence from Mogoung he had collected some Kachins and attacked our camp there, but he had been driven off with loss. In marching through the village of Sekaw the

Saubwa, who had been so friendly when we started, appeared grave and anxious, and very disturbing accounts of what was going on at Mogoung reached me.

On arriving at our camp on the Endaw river we found everything in proper order, and I received some letters from Mogoung confirming the news of an attack on the camp there. I wrote letters of warning to the Ithi and Thama Saubwas, and also to the Shan villagers of Toungni and Nyoungbintha, who were said to be harbouring the deposed Myoke.

On the 13th we halted at Sekaw, preparatory to starting for the Endaw lake; and on the morning of the 14th, leaving all our mules and animals behind us in the camp, we started in boats to explore the Endaw lake and river.

Three and a half days were occupied in poling up the Endaw river. On the first day we had to pass two rapids, but after that the water became deep, and the stream twisted its way through a large plain completely overgrown with rank elephant grass. During the first day we did not pass any village on the banks of the river; but on the second day we passed the deserted site of one which had been burnt by the Burmese after the Kachin rebellion, and which had not been rebuilt. On the second day, too, we met four or five rafts, laden with balls of raw india-rubber, being taken down the river by Kachins. The third day's scenery was exactly similar to the second: we passed one raft laden with india-rubber, but came across nothing to break the monotony of the never-ending elephant grass. We could never see anything on shore except a solitary tree here and there rising out of the elephant grass. On these trees there were very frequently to be seen the large nests of vultures, while the birds themselves were always visible flying about overhead. There was, however, a great dearth of bird life along the river. A few egrets, small cormorants, green pigeons, a snipe or two, and occasionally a sandpiper were almost the only birds we saw, while of animals I do not remember seeing anything but one or two otters. The tracks of wild elephants were, however, abundant in all directions.

On the fourth day the plain widened and the hills receded.





It was evident that we were getting into what in the rainy season would be a portion of the lake. There was hardly any stream and the river became very deep. Very early in the morning we passed the mouth of the Nantine stream, which is the chief tributary of the Endaw river. At this time of the year the Nantine and the Endaw appear to unite and empty their waters into the Mogoung river; but in the rains the very large quantity of water which is brought down by the Nantine stream cannot escape rapidly enough seawards, and it forces its way back into the Endaw lake, which thus becomes a large reservoir for the waters of the Nantine stream. This has the curious effect of making the river appear to flow in different directions at different times of the year. It was about 2 o'clock when we gradually emerged near the north-east end of the lake, and could see the clear water glistening in the sunshine and just stirred by the slight breeze which was blowing. We made straight for the village of Koonmamoon, and anchored near it about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the fourth day from Sekaw.

Saturday and Sunday were spent in exploring the western shore of the lake, on which there were reported to have been several large and flourishing villages. I marched with an escort of 20 Rifles, by an old and overgrown roadway, to the village of Loontoon, about twelve miles distant. On the road we passed the sites of several old villages and numerous deserted monasteries; but, with the exception of three or four miserable huts in two places, we found nothing which could be called an inhabited village till we arrived at Loontoon. The scenery on the western shore of the lake is very diversified and pleasing. The outline is most irregular, there being many promontories and bays. In places the shore is low and sandy, while in other places small spurs of hills come down to the water's edge. The whole of the shore is thickly wooded, but a short distance inland are plains extending three or four miles towards the foot of the hills. These plains formerly produced a large amount of rice, but they are at present uncultivated. It was from this district that the Kachins started when they rebelled and attacked the Burmese. They forced all the

inhabitants of Endaw to join them, burning and plundering all those villages where the inhabitants dared to oppose them; and it was to this district that they again retreated when compelled to retire before the Burmese and Shan troops which, under the leadership of the Woontho Saubwa, were sent to put down the rebellion. The Burmese troops on this occasion behaved with great severity and cruelty. Every village which had not been burnt by the Kachins during their advance, was now destroyed by the victorious Burmese; and the Endaw district from being a thriving and populous plain was transformed into a desert. The few inhabitants who remained did not return to their villages, but remained in the hills under the protection of the Kachins. It was their idea that the English would punish them for their misdeeds in the time of the Burmese Government, and to allay these fears was one of my earliest endeavours. Having reached the village of Loontoon by land, and interviewed the villagers; we started to return by boats which had been sent to meet us. On our way back a very strong wind got up, and the lake became so rough that our boats could scarcely make any way. At about seven o'clock we reached a long narrow strip of sand, which runs for nearly half a mile into the lake, and which is only about 20 feet wide. At its extremity it broadens out, and at the very end a pagoda called Hlaygyoon has been built. There is a legend connected with this place. It is said that many years ago a devout man built a pagoda on a small island in the middle of the lake, to which many pilgrims resorted; but as there were few boats to be procured many of the would-be pilgrims were unable to reach the island to worship at the pagoda. In order to obviate this difficulty a miraculous road to the pagoda in one night rose from the lake. However this may be, the ridge of sand kept the water to the south of it comparatively smooth, but our boats were quite unable to weather the promontory. We accordingly disembarked near the pagoda until the wind should have abated, and we ate what provisions we had brought with us for the day. At about nine o'clock the wind had gone down a little, and as I had nothing to eat with me and no bed of any sort, I

determined to attempt to get back to camp. With great difficulty I managed to get my boat round the point. I and all my boatmen got wet up to our necks; but having rounded the point the wind was so strong that we could not get away from the sandy shore, and it ended by the boat filling with water and sinking. Everything in the boat was washed out, but luckily the waves washed the floating contents to shore; and as the water was quite shallow we drew up the boat as near the shore as we could and left her there for the night. The boats with the soldiers in, being rather larger, did not fill with water as mine had done, and the men who had their blankets with them were able to get them out of their boats without getting them very wet.

It was now about ten o'clock, and it was quite evident that we must stay where we were for the night. It was also very dark, and there was no shelter at all on the sandbank. We sent off a party to search for something to make a fire, and luckily they came upon some drift wood. This was set fire to, and we dried our clothes as best we could. I managed to borrow a blanket from a man who was sentry, in which I folded myself for the night, having hung some of my clothes near the fire in hopes of getting them more or less dry before the morning. To add to our discomfort it began to rain, and my men took off the roof of my boat, with which they made a sort of roof over me as protection against the rain. We were uncommonly glad when the morning broke. The wind had quite gone down, and we at once set to work to see what damage had been done to the boats. My boat leaked so much that I could not go in her, so I started with my gun to return to the camp along the edge of lake. On my way back I shot some pigeons and some snipe; and I also came across a sambar in the jungle, but I did not get a shot at it. I did not arrive at the camp till about eleven o'clock, by which time I had become quite dry, and was excessively hungry. By constant baling the boatmen had managed to get my boat back, and they spent the rest of the day in patching it up.

Several of the officers had been out shooting and fishing, but

except snipe, green and imperial pigeons, jungle fowl, and one duck, nothing had been obtained. The lake appears to swarm with fish, and the men from the village at which we stayed made a good thing out of the soldiers by selling them some very fine fish at a wonderfully cheap price.

On Monday, the 20th, we crossed the lake in a fog, and in the afternoon we visited the villages of Lawsoon, Lweban, and Mankin on the Nantine river. I was well received at these villages by both Shans and Kachins, and I was able to arrange with them about the government of the district, the appointment of head men, and the collection of revenue. I was much pleased with the result of my visit to Endaugya. There are now not more than 100 houses in the whole place. I expect that in ten years there will be ten times the number, and that the place, instead of being a desert, will be a highly cultivated and flourishing province.

From here two days' poling and rowing down stream brought us to Sekaw, where we had left our camp, and we were once again all assembled in one place.

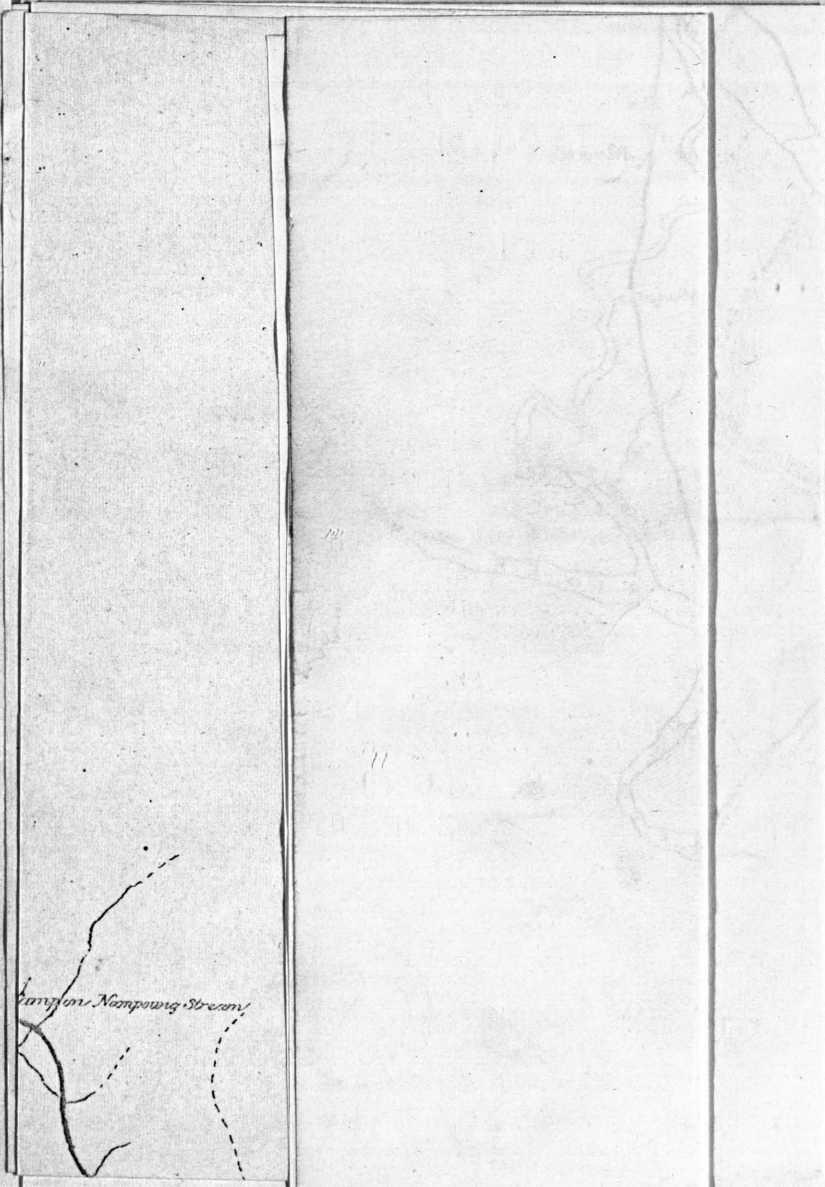
On our return to Mogoung our column was attacked by a party of Kachins, and we lost two or three men killed. Again, on our march from Mogoung by a new route to Mohnyin, we had two or three skirmishes with the Kachins, who had fortified themselves in posts along the road. These fortified posts, however, did not stop us, as the defenders were quickly dislodged by the mountain guns we had with us.

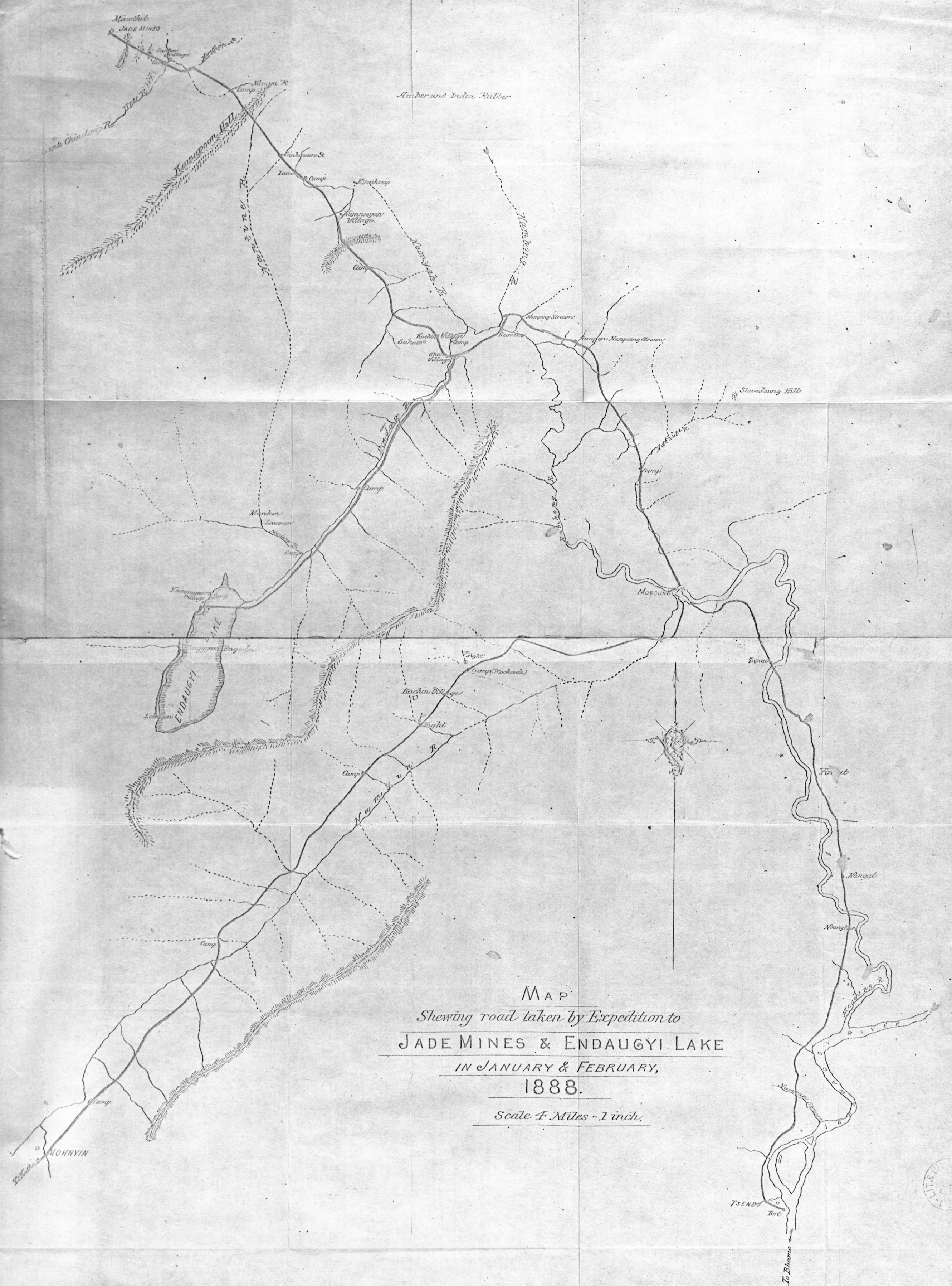
On our fourth day after leaving Mogoung we reached the town of Mohnyin, which was garrisoned by a party of Military Police from Katha on the Irrawaddy. We had thus formed a junction between the troops from Bhamo and those from Katha; and had become acquainted with the roads connecting these two stations, *via* Mogoung and Mohnyin. From Mohnyin I rode to Katha with an escort of 12 men. The distance was about 50 miles, and I did it in two days. From Katha I returned at once by steam launch to Bhamo to take up my work as Deputy Commissioner of that place.

On the whole I think our expedition was successful. We

had reached the Jade Mines, and come to terms with the Kachin chief in whose territory they were situated. No European, except Lieutenant Bayfield, some fifty years previously, had ever visited these mines, and the information regarding them was most meagre. We had also visited Lake Endawgyi, the largest lake in Burmah, and we had proved the existence and possibility of the road from Katha to Mogoung by way of Mohnyin.

I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of all the troops who accompanied me in this expedition. They had at times very hard and trying work to perform, and often to make most trying marches; being under fire from an invisible enemy for miles. They shewed under all difficulties steadiness and pluck, and the officers were always ready and willing to do anything in their power to lighten my work and to carry out my ideas. Capt. Triscott, R.A., who commanded the troops, was especially noticeable in this respect; and it was in great measure due to his foresight, energy, and example, that the expedition was successfully carried through. The Military Police, under Captain O'Donnell, who were left to garrison Mogoung, have had very hard work to perform. This they have carried out with the greatest bravery and determination. They have repelled attacks successively made on Mogoung by Shans and Kachins under the leadership of the rebel Myoke, Moungh Pho Saw, and they have severely punished those Kachin tribes who were prominent in the attacks. I now look forward with confidence to the time when the Mogoung district will be a rich and populous district, producing, as it can, quantities of teak, india-rubber, jade, and rice. When the railway to Mogoung is opened, as I trust it may be in a very few years, the population of the district will, I am convinced, increase enormously, and it will become as peaceable and as prosperous as any other portion of the territories of the Empress of India.





MAP  
 Shewing road taken by Expedition to  
 JADE MINES & ENDAUGYI LAKE  
 IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY,  
 1888.  
 Scale 4 Miles = 1 inch.

