

*M. V. Nichols. 23rd July
1859.*

W. D. from India

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

BOMBAY GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

FROM SEPTEMBER 1850 TO JUNE 1852.

~~~~~  
EDITED BY THE SECRETARY.  
~~~~~

VOLUME X.

BOMBAY:

ing - PRINTED AT THE "TIMES" PRESS,

BY J. D'GAMA.

—
MDCCLII.

am about to supply the deficiency by building a large well out of the funds lately granted by government for works of public utility, and which to the best of my judgment would be far preferable to a tank.

H. B. ELLIS, Assistant Commissioner in Scinde.

ART. VI.—*A report of the disastrous consequences of the severe earthquake felt on the frontier of Upper Scinde on the 24th January, 1852.*

To the Right Hon'ble Lord VISCOUNT FALKLAND, 16th Feb., 1852.

MY LORD,— I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter from Major John Jacob, C. B., Commanding Scinde Horse, and Political Superintendent of the Frontier, with copy of one from Lieut. Merewether giving a very interesting account of a very severe earthquake, which on the night of the 24th January destroyed Kahun, the chief town of the Murrees.

2.—Lieutenant Merewether had previously reported to Major John Jacob, that the shock was felt at Khanghur at 3h. 45m. A. M. The direction was East and West, and the day succeeding it was cloudy. The people of Kutchee stated that earthquakes occurred every three or four years in the Murree hills,—the last having been during the last Punjaub war.

3.—It may be of interest to add the following list of earthquakes, which I have noted as having been felt in this and the neighbouring provinces, during the past year.

17th January, 1851.—A slight shock felt at many places in the Punjaub.

2nd February, 1851.—At Phooljee, near Sehwan.

4th February, 1851.—At Lahore and Wuzeerabad.

19th April, 1851.—At 5 P. M., three shocks felt at Gwadir in Mekran,—several houses destroyed.

22nd and 27th April, 1851.—Earthquakes felt at Oothul and Syaree in Sup-Beila.

BELOOCHISTAN.—13th. December, 1851.—At Shapoore in Cutchee, at the foot of the Murree hills. 24th January, 1852.—That at Kahun above described.

Khanghur, 9th February, 1852.

SIR,—Under instructions received from you yesterday, I have the honor to report for your information, the undermentioned circumstances

connected with an earthquake that occurred on this Frontier lately, and which has been attended with most fatal results to the Murree tribe. On the morning of the 24th ultimo at 3h. 45m., a slight shock was felt here, but not sufficient to affect in any way the buildings in this neighbourhood. After some days had elapsed, intelligence was received that the same had been felt in other parts of the country to the Northward to a less or greater degree, but especially in the Murree hills where it had been the cause of the death of a large number of people, and of the loss of much cattle and other property. It was some time before fully authentic particulars were received, of which the following is an abstract. On the morning of the 2nd day of the Mussulman month Rubbee-ul-Akbar (corresponding to the 24th of January of our reckoning), at the time of the appearance of the false dawn, that is about 4 o'clock, a very severe shock of an earthquake was felt at Kahun, the principal Fort in the Murree hills and residence of the chief and main portion of that tribe;—one side of the Fort-wall was thrown down, the remainder much shattered, and the greater number of the houses inside also overthrown, burying beneath the ruins many men, women, and children, with some cattle, and a good deal of property besides. Deen Mahomed the chief of the tribe himself appears to have had a miraculous escape, the house in which he was living falling with the others and men being killed on either side of him; he was saved by the portion of the house immediately above him remaining firm until the motion had ceased, when he was found hemmed in by the ruins of the remainder of his dwelling;—most of the private houses, Bunniahs' shops, &c., within the Fort either fell to the ground or were so shaken, that it was considered unsafe to remain longer within them. On this Deen Mahomed, his family, and all the usual residents within Kahun left it, and proceeded to another small Fort called Dost Ali's (the uncle of the chief) Kotela, not far distant; entirely abandoning a place which they looked upon with superstitious dread, as unlucky and pregnant with further misfortune to them, did they remain there longer; and, I believe, owing to the strong feeling these people have on these subjects, that it will never again be inhabited by them. At the same time that this disaster occurred at Kahun another even more fearful calamity overtook a portion of the tribe, living with their cattle in a large cave, some little distance to the

*Small Kot
Kot-ell*

Northward. The hill, in which the cave was, was violently shaken, and fell burying nearly every living being at that time within it. The road by Nuffosk to Kahun has been completely closed by the hill falling, and filling up the pass through which it formerly went. A considerable increase to the flow of water in the Lahree river has taken place; so much so that water is now flowing past where it never even came to before, excepting after heavy rain. According to the last accounts received, 260, Mussalmen, women and children, have been killed, and upwards of eighty Hindoos, with a large quantity of cattle; the amount of the latter yet unknown. As far as I can learn any disastrous effects from this earthquake have been confined to the Murree hills, and the consequent effect on the minds of these wild people, highly superstitious, is very great.

Their chiefs were assembled to proceed to Gundava to make their submission to H. H. the Khan of Kelat, and had, indeed, advanced some distance for that purpose, when hearing of this severe affliction they returned to learn the loss they had sustained. They now declare that they will abandon the hills to which a curse seems attached, and apply to the Khan of Kelat for permission to reside in the plains in the neighbourhood of Gundava, Dadur, or Lahree. The reports as to whether any persons of note in the tribe are among the killed are very vague, but a son of Gonim Khan (cousin to Deen Mahomed), is mentioned, and an influential Syud of the name of Lall Shah. The earthquake appears to have been felt throughout Cutch; at Gundava, Dadur, Bhagh, Lahree, Pooljee, Chuttur, &c., at the same time as it was at Khanghur, and at Kahun about 4 o'clock on the morning of the 24th ultimo. A resident of Chuttur, who was fully awake at the time the earthquake took place, declares there were three perfectly distinct shocks perceptible, a few seconds intervening between each.

Curiously, no mention has yet been made to me of its being at all felt any where to the South, neither have any accounts been received from Kelat or Western Beeloochistan of its having been the cause of injury to any of the large cities in those hills.

I have &c.,

W. MEREWETHER, Lieut., Commanding Frontier of U. S.

nd-ara
j-ara
ava