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Excerpt

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NARRATIVE  
OF THE  
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CHAPTER I.  
MISSION TO TIBET.

LETTER FROM THE TESHU LAMA—MISSION TO TIBET—APPOINTMENT OF MR. BOGLE  
—HIS INSTRUCTIONS

1.

LETTER FROM THE TESHU LAMA<sup>1</sup> TO WARREN HASTINGS.

*(Received March 29, 1774.)*

THE affairs of this quarter in every respect flourish. I am night and day employed in prayers for the increase of your happiness and

<sup>1</sup> This was a letter of mediation, sent at the request of the Government of Bhutan. In 1772 the Bhutanese, under Deb Judhur, descended into the plains, and overran Kuch Bahar. This aggression threatened the peace of Rangpúr and adjacent parts of Bengal. Warren Hastings, therefore, resolved to drive the mountaineers back into their fastnesses. A battalion of native infantry was employed on this service. But the invaders made a desperate resistance. They defended the fort of Bahar, which was stormed and taken by Captain John Jones, at the head of his troops, nearly one-fourth of the detachment being killed or wounded. Captain Jones himself was wounded. Soon afterwards a night attack was made, at Chichakotta, on a small detachment under Lieutenant Dickinson and Mr. Purling, of 226 rank and file, by 3000 Bhutanese, who were beaten off with great loss. (See Letters from Warren Hastings to Sir George Colebrooke and to Mr. Purling. 'Memoirs,' i. pp. 279 and 295.) Eventually the invaders retreated into their

own mountainous country, followed by our troops. Captain Jones occupied the Dalim-kotta Dúar (Daling) at the foot of the hills, and took the fortress of Dalim-kotta by assault in April, 1773. Our troops also defeated the Bhutanese at Chichakotta, and drove them up to Buxa-Dúar. But the troops were decimated by disease. The malaria proved fatal to Captain Jones and many other officers. The Bhutan Government was however thoroughly alarmed, and entreated the Teshu Lama of Tibet to interpose in their favour. The Lama sent a deputation to Calcutta, consisting of a Tibetan named Paima, and a Hindu pilgrim named Purungur Gosain, who were entrusted with this letter from the Teshu Lama. It is given in the introduction of 'Turner's Embassy,' p. ix. Captain Turner speaks of it "as an authentic and curious specimen of the Lama's good sense, humility, simplicity of heart, and, above all, of that delicacy of sentiment and expression which could convey a threat in terms of meekness and supplication."

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prosperity. Having been informed by travellers from your quarter<sup>1</sup> of your exalted fame and reputation, my heart, like the blossom of spring, abounds with gaiety,<sup>2</sup> gladness, and joy; praise<sup>3</sup> that the star of your fortune is in its ascension; praise<sup>4</sup> that happiness and ease are the surrounding attendants of myself and family. Neither to molest nor persecute is my aim; it is even the characteristic of my<sup>5</sup> sect to deprive ourselves of the necessary refreshment of sleep, should an injury be done to a single individual. But in justice and humanity I am informed you far surpass us. May you ever adorn the seat of justice and power, that mankind may, under the shadow of your bosom, enjoy the blessings of happiness and ease.<sup>6</sup> By your favour, I am the Rajah and Lama of this country, and rule over numbers<sup>7</sup> of subjects, a particular<sup>8</sup> with which you have no doubt been made acquainted by travellers from these parts. I have been repeatedly informed that you have been<sup>9</sup> engaged in hostilities against the Deb Judhur,<sup>10</sup> to which, it is said, the Deb's own criminal conduct, in committing ravages and other outrages on your frontiers, has given<sup>11</sup> rise. As he is of a rude and ignorant race (past times are not destitute of instances of the like misconduct,<sup>12</sup> which his own<sup>13</sup> avarice tempted him to commit), it is not unlikely that he has now renewed those instances; and the ravages and plunder which he may have committed on the skirts of the Bengal and Bahar provinces have given you provocation to send your vindictive<sup>14</sup> army against him. However,<sup>15</sup> his party has been defeated, many of his people have been killed, three forts<sup>16</sup> have been taken from him, and he has met with the punishment he deserved; and it is as evident as the sun your army has been victorious, and that, if you had been desirous of it, you might, in the space of two days, have entirely extirpated him, for he had not power to resist your efforts. But I now take upon

<sup>1</sup> Turner's version has *country*.<sup>2</sup> Turner has *satisfaction*.<sup>3</sup> Turner has *praise be to God*.<sup>4</sup> Turner has *praise be to Him*.<sup>5</sup> Turner has *our*.<sup>6</sup> Turner has *peace and affluence*.<sup>7</sup> Turner has *a number*.<sup>8</sup> Turner has *circumstance*.<sup>9</sup> Turner omits *been*.<sup>10</sup> Turner has *Déh Terria* throughout, and *Déh*.<sup>11</sup> Turner has *gave*.<sup>12</sup> Turner has *faults*.<sup>13</sup> Turner omits *own*.<sup>14</sup> Turner has *avenging*.<sup>15</sup> Turner has *nevertheless*.<sup>16</sup> Dalim-kotta, Chichakotta, and Buxa. The last was taken by Lieutenant Dickinson and "young Purling," of the Warren Hastings correspondence, who lost some men in the retreat, owing to the indiscretion of a native officer. This man would fight the Bhutanese, who rolled down stones on the rear-guard.

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LETTER FROM THE TESHU LAMA.

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me to be his mediator, and to represent to you that, as the said Deb Rajah is dependent upon the Dalai Lama, who rules in this country with unlimited sway (but on account of his being in his minority, the charge of the government and administration for the present is committed to me), should you persist in offering further molestation to the Deb's country, it will irritate both the Lama and all his subjects against you. Therefore, from a regard to our religion and customs, I request you will cease<sup>1</sup> all hostilities against him, and in doing this you will confer the greatest favour and friendship upon me. I have reprimanded the Deb for his past conduct, and I have admonished him to desist from his evil practices in future, and to be submissive to you in all matters.<sup>2</sup> I am persuaded that he will conform to the advice which I have given him, and it will be necessary that you treat him with compassion and clemency. As to my part, I am but a Fakir, and it is the custom of my sect, with the rosary in our hands, to pray for the welfare of<sup>3</sup> mankind, and for the peace and happiness of the inhabitants of this country; and I do now, with my head uncovered, entreat that you may cease all hostilities against the Deb in future. It would be needless to add to the length of this letter, as the bearer of it, who is a Gosain, will represent to you all particulars, and it is hoped that you will comply therewith. In this country<sup>4</sup> worship of the Almighty is the profession of all. We poor creatures are in nothing equal to you. Having a few things in hand, I send them to you by way<sup>5</sup> of remembrance, and hope for your acceptance of them.

## 2.

MINUTE BY WARREN HASTINGS.

*May 4, 1774.*

The President acquaints the Board that, since he laid before them the letter from the Teshu Lama of Tibet, he has written an answer to it, and, among other things, has proposed a general treaty of amity and commerce between the two states of Bengal and Bhutan.<sup>6</sup> He begs leave to observe that such a treaty has ever been

<sup>1</sup> Turner has *cease from*.<sup>4</sup> Turner has *the worship*.<sup>2</sup> Turner has *things*.<sup>5</sup> Turner has *as token*.<sup>3</sup> Turner has *all mankind*.<sup>6</sup> *Bhot*, the native name of Tibet.

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a favourite object with our Honourable Masters, and that they have repeatedly recommended the establishment of an intercourse with that country. The present juncture appeared to him the most favourable which has yet occurred for pursuing these views.

The letter from the Lama invites us to friendship, and the late final arrangement of the disputes on the frontier renders the country accessible without danger either to the persons or effects of travellers. Therefore, no sooner was the treaty for the affairs of Kuch Bahar<sup>1</sup> signed and ratified than he thought seriously of carrying this project into execution; and conceiving it to be most proper that a European, and servant of the Company, should be entrusted with the negotiation in preference to any native, he wrote immediately for the necessary passports for such a person, which he informs the Board he has now obtained. The person he has made choice of for this trust is Mr. George Bogle, a servant of the Company, well known to this Board for his intelligence, assiduity and exactness in affairs; and the President further expects to draw much advantage in the conduct of the business from the coolness and moderation of temper which he seems to possess in an eminent degree. He proposes that Mr. Bogle should set out without loss of time, and will charge himself with furnishing him proper instructions and despatches. He hopes the Board will approve of his choice, and as Mr. Bogle undertakes this difficult and hazardous commission without any immediate prospect of advantage, and with great uncertainty as to its success, he would recommend to the Board that he be continued in possession of the appointments which he now holds at the Presidency, and permitted to act by deputy till his return, or till it shall be thought proper to dispose of him another way. The President

<sup>1</sup> He alludes to the treaty between the East India Company and the Deb Rajah of Bhutan, signed on April 25, 1774. The English agreed to relinquish all the lands which belonged to the Deb Rajah before the commencement of his war with the Rajah of Kuch Bahar; but for the possession of Chichakotta the Deb Rajah was to pay an annual tribute of five Tangun ponies. The Deb Rajah agreed to de-

liver up the Rajah of Kuch Bahar and his brother, whom he had made prisoners. The Bhutan merchants were allowed to go with their caravans to Rangpúr every year without paying duties. The Deb Rajah promised never to cause incursions to be made, and to give up any inhabitants of the Company's territories on application. (See 'Aitchison's Treaties,' i. p. 143.)

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further acquaints the Board that he has nominated Mr. Alexander Hamilton, assistant-surgeon on the establishment, to accompany Mr. Bogle on this expedition.

The President has only further to observe that he is far from being sanguine in his hopes of success, but the present occasion appears too favourable for the attempt to be neglected. He also can assure the Board that the information which he has been able to procure of the people, the country, and government of Tibet, gives considerable encouragement to it. They are represented as a simple, well-disposed people, numerous and industrious, living under a well-regulated government, having considerable intercourse with other nations, particularly with the Chinese and northern Tatars, and possessing at home the principal means of commerce, gold and silver in great abundance. For the more particular satisfaction of the Board he subjoins to this minute the substance of this information, which, being on record, will also exhibit to our Honourable Masters the grounds of the present undertaking, whatever may be its success, and enable them to judge how far it may be advisable to prosecute it on any future occasion.

He also annexes to this an account of such goods as he has ordered Mr. Bogle to provide for presents to the Lama, or as samples of the commodities which this country is capable of supplying, and he moves that the Board should order the amount to be paid out of the treasury.

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 3.

## LETTER FROM WARREN HASTINGS TO THE COURT OF DIRECTORS.

The President, having received a letter from Teshu Lama, who is the guardian and minister of the Dalai Lama, the sovereign and high-priest of all Tibet, thinks it a proper opportunity to open intercourse between these countries and Bengal, through Mr. G. Bogle, whose merits and abilities we have frequently noticed to you, and who by his patience, exactitude, and intelligence seemed peculiarly fitted for the duty. Accordingly, Mr. G. Bogle

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will be sent to the Lama, with a letter and presents and different samples of goods, to see which would sell best there. Mr. Hamilton, assistant-surgeon, is to accompany him, but the great length of the journey and the natural difficulties which Mr. Bogle has to encounter from the severity of the climate and the rudeness of the country will make it a long while before we shall hear from him.

## 4.

## APPOINTMENT OF MR. BOGLE.

FORT WILLIAM, 13th May, 1774.

SIR,—Having appointed you my deputy to the Teshu Lama, the sovereign of Bhutan,<sup>1</sup> I desire you will proceed to Lhasa, his capital, and deliver to him the letter and presents which I have given you in charge.

The design of your mission is to open a mutual and equal communication of trade between the inhabitants of Bhutan and Bengal, and you will be guided by your own judgment in using such means of negotiation as may be most likely to effect this purpose.

You will take with you samples for a trial of such articles of commerce as may be sent from this country according to the accompanying list, marking as accurately as possible the charge of transporting them.

You will inquire what other commodities may be successfully employed in that trade. And you will diligently inform yourself of the manufactures, productions, goods, introduced by the intercourse with other countries, which are to be procured in Bhutan, especially such as are of great value and easy transportation, such as gold, silver, precious stones, musk, rhubarb,<sup>2</sup> munjít,<sup>3</sup> &c.

The following will be also proper objects of your inquiry—the nature of the road between the borders of Bengal and Lhasa, and of the countries lying between; the communi-

<sup>1</sup> The word *Bhutan* is here, and in other places, used by Warren Hastings for *Blot*, the native name of Tibet.

<sup>2</sup> Râwend.

<sup>3</sup> *Rubia mungista*. A madder used as a dye, and also for medicinal purposes.

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cations between Lhasa and the neighbouring countries, their government, revenue, and manners.

Whatever observations you may make on these or any other subjects, whether of useful knowledge or curiosity, I desire you will communicate to me from time to time, reporting the success of your negotiations.

The period of your stay must be left to your discretion. I wish you to remain a sufficient time to fulfil the purposes of your deputation, and obtain a complete knowledge of the country and the points referred to your inquiry. If you shall judge that a residence may be usefully established at Lhasa without putting the Company to any expense, but such as may be repaid by the advantages which may be hereafter derived from it, you will take the earliest opportunity to advise me of it; and if you should find it necessary to come away before you receive my orders upon it, you may leave such persons as you shall think fit to remain as your agents till a proper resident can be appointed, and you will apply to the Lama for his permission and the necessary passports for the person who may be hereafter deputed in this character.

You will draw on me for your charges, and your drafts shall be regularly answered. To these I can fix no limitation, but empower you to act according to your discretion, knowing that I need not recommend to you to observe a strict frugality and economy where the good of the service on which you are commissioned shall not require a deviation from these rules.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

MR. GEORGE BOGLE.

WARREN HASTINGS.

P.S.—I have appointed Mr. Alexander Hamilton, assistant-surgeon, to attend you on this deputation.

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## 5.

## PRIVATE COMMISSIONS TO MR. BOGLE.

FORT WILLIAM, 16th May, 1774.

1. To send one or more pair of the animals called *tús*,<sup>1</sup> which produce the shawl wool. If by a dooley, chairs, or any other contrivance they can be secured from the fatigues and hazards of the way, the expense is to be no objection.

2. To send one or more pair of the cattle which bear what are called cowtails.<sup>2</sup>

3. To send me carefully packed some fresh ripe walnuts for seed, or an entire plant, if it can be transported; and any other curious or valuable seeds or plants, the rhubarb and ginseng<sup>3</sup> especially.

4. Any curiosities, whether natural productions, manufactures, paintings, or what else may be acceptable to persons of taste in England. Animals only that may be useful, unless any that may be remarkably curious.

5. In your inquiries concerning the people, the form of their government, and the mode of collecting their revenue, are points principally meriting your attention.

6. To keep a diary, inserting whatever passes before your observation which shall be characteristic of the people, the country, the climate, or the road, their manners, customs, buildings, cookery, &c., or interesting to the trade of this country, carrying with you a pencil and a pocket-book for the purpose of minuting short notes of every fact or remark as it occurs, and putting them in order at your leisure while they are fresh in your memory.

7. To inquire what countries lie between Lhasa and Siberia, and what communication there is between them. The same with regard to China and Kashmir.

<sup>1</sup> *Tús* is the wool of the shawl goat.

<sup>2</sup> Yaks.

<sup>3</sup> A drug, the root of an araliaceous plant (*Panax ginseng*), much used in

China for fevers. Properly, *Jen-san*. There is also an American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolium*).

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8. To ascertain the value of their trade with Bengal by their gold and silver coins, and to send me samples of both.

9. Every nation excels others in some particular art or science. To find out this excellence of the Bhutanese.

WARREN HASTINGS.

10. To inform yourself of the course and navigation of the Brahmaputra, and of the state of the countries through which it runs.

W. H.

## 6.

## MEMORANDUM ON TIBET, BY WARREN HASTINGS.

[*Accompanying the Instructions to Mr. Bogle.*]

Tibet is a cold, high, mountainous country. The inhabitants approach more in figure to the Persians and other inhabitants of Western Asia, than to any of their neighbours, Chinese, Hindus, or Tatars.

It should seem that Tibet consisted of a great variety of tribes more or less addicted to the pastoral life. At times they appear to have united into powerful confederacies, and become formidable to their neighbours. At other times, when divided, they fell a prey to irruptions of Tatars, or to the policy and power of the Chinese. The Caucasus formed a barrier on the south that protected reciprocally both Hindustan and Tibet from any dangerous hostilities in that quarter.

In the fourth century, the Tatar confederacy of the Typa subdued the north and east of Tibet. In the eighth and ninth centuries, when the Tatar confederacy of the Turks became feeble, the power of those nations, which now acknowledge the supremacy of the Dalai Lama, was very great. Sometimes they penetrated into the heart of China, but at other times the Chinese took advantage of their divisions to recover what had been lost.

In 1102, the chief of Great Tibet seems to have resided at Lhasa. He at that period found it necessary to become lama, in order to strengthen his authority over the different tribes that had

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raised him to be their leader, and for the same reason, it is said, that he submitted to become a vassal of the Chinese empire in 1125.

In the thirteenth century, the Tatar confederacy of the Moghuls under Mangu Khan overran Tibet, and soon after Kublai Khan, who was Emperor of China as well as chief of the Moghuls, divided it into provinces, and gave the title of King to the Lama of Lhasa. The Moghul princes being expelled from China, the Emperor Yonglo, of the dynasty of Ming, which succeeded them, gave the title of King, in 1373, to eight more lamas in Tibet. In 1426, these took the title of Grand Lamas; and then, or some time afterwards, the Lama of Lhasa took the distinguishing title of Dalai Lama. At least, we find the Chinese Emperor Kang-hi appointing, in 1705, a Dalai Lama, who is said to be the sixth in succession who had borne that title.

It was in the middle of the fifteenth century that the Dalai Lama of Bhutan,<sup>1</sup> or Greater Tibet, first named a *Typa*<sup>2</sup> Lama for the administration of civil affairs. The late intercourse opened between the Presidency of Bengal and Bhutan shows that the office of *Typa* remains and actually engrosses the authority of the state. It is not likely that the Dalai Lama retains the power of nominating to this office.

Although the Chinese historians ascribe to their emperors the power of nominating the Dalai Lama, it does not follow that this nomination is more than a bare acknowledgment or confirmation of his appointment by the lamas or Tibetan tribes. It may likewise not be improbable that the *Typa* Lama is chosen by the priests. It is, at least, generally said that the chiefs of the Tibetan tribes that acknowledge a sort of supremacy in the Dalai Lama are all elected by the priests, or lamas, the nobility at the same time having some influence in the transaction.

A curious enough precaution against hereditary succession in the chiefship is ascribed to these tribes. No sooner, it is said, is a new chief chosen, than his wife and children are for ever separated from him. I have never heard what is done with *them*, nor whether

<sup>1</sup> Or Bhot. (See note at page 6.)

<sup>2</sup> The *Typa* Lama is the *guru* or teacher of the young Dalai Lama.