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1900.

ASSAM SECRETARIAT. ✓

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FOREIGN—A.

Progs., August 1900, Nos. 46-60.

Report on the Bebejiya Mishmi Expedition, 1899-1900.

Mixed (Tribal Areas) Records.

727
1900

(55.12)

REFERENCES TO FORMER CASES.

Department, date and Nos., or File No. and year.	Brief Title of File.
1. For., A, Aug. 1884, Nos. 23-28.
2. Ditto, July 1894, Nos. 34-371.
3. Ditto, Nov. 1897, Nos. 15-104.
4. Ditto, May 1899, Nos. 29-31.
5. Mily., B, Jan. 1900, Nos. 48-65.
6. For., A, Mar. 1900, Nos. 8-17.	Same subject.

P-2-41.

REFERENCES TO LATER CASES.

Department, date and Nos.	Brief Title of File.
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For. A. 10th Feb 1900
 No. 1-27
 - Apr 1900 - 1-50
 Pal A. June 1900 = 32-34 (7 118 P)
 " " March 1900 = 1-15 (7 62 P)
 " " June 1900 = 32-34 (7 118 P)
 - B. Selby 1900 = 729-48

(To be continued on back, if necessary.)

KEEP-WITHS PRINTED.

Notes and orders.

KEEP-WITHS NOT PRINTED.

1. Maps.
2. Proofs and originals.

1900.

ASSAM SECRETARIAT.

FOREIGN—A.

AUGUST.

Nos. 46-60.

Report on the Bebejiya Mishmi Expedition, 1899-1900.

LIST OF PAPERS.

- No. 46.—Telegram from the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, dated the 8th February 1900.
- No. 47.—Telegram to the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, No. 533P., dated the 10th February 1900.
- No. 48.—From the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, No. 2369G., dated the 30th March 1900.
- Nos. 49-51.—Enclosures.
- No. 52.—To the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 231For.—1379P., dated the 17th April 1900.
- No. 53.—To the General Officer Commanding Assam District, No. 231For.—1380P., dated the 17th April 1900.
- No. 54.—To the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, No. 231For.—1381P., dated the 17th April 1900.
- No. 55.—Memorandum to the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, the Inspector General, Police, Assam, the Principal Medical Officer and Sanitary Commissioner, Assam, and the Deputy Commissioners, Nowgong, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and Naga Hills, Nos. 231For.—1538-43P., dated the 24th April 1900.
- No. 56.—To the Quartermaster General in India, No. 231For.—1544P., dated the 24th April 1900.
- No. 57.—Memorandum to F. J. Needham, Esq., Political Officer in charge of the Bebejiya Mishmi Expedition, No. 231For.—1545P., dated the 24th April 1900.
- No. 58.—Telegram from the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 984E.-B., dated the 8th May 1900.
- No. 59.—Telegram to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1892P., dated the 10th May 1900.
- No. 60.—From the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, No. 311G., dated the 16th May 1900.

K. W.

FOREIGN—A, AUGUST 1900.

Nos. 46-60.

Report on the Bebejiya Mishmi Expedition, 1899-1900.

TELEGRAM FROM THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, LAKHIMPUR, DATED THE 8TH FEBRUARY 1900.

Requests orders as to whether Mr. Needham's report on the Mishmi expedition should be submitted to the Officer Commanding the Expedition, as desired by the latter.

Repeat to Chief Commissioner.

9th February 1900.

F. J. M.

Repeated to Chief Commissioner on 9th February 1900.

Mohoda—9th February 1900.

Chief Commissioner's wire No. 138T., dated the 9th February 1900.

"Your wire of date. Reply that, in accordance with usual practice, the Report of Political Officer should be submitted direct to Civil authority, but a copy should be sent to Officer Commanding Expedition without avoidable delay."

Reply by wire as above.

10th February 1900.

F. J. M.

[Telegram to the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, No. 533P., dated the 10th February 1900.]

FROM THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, LAKHIMPUR, No. 2369G., DATED THE 30TH MARCH 1900.

Submits a report on the Bebejiya Mishmi expedition, prepared by Mr. Needham, who accompanied the expedition as Political Officer.

Personal Assistant,

With reference to the proposal to keep two Chulikatta chiefs as hostages, office note of 18th May 1899—page 2 of K. W., For., A, May 1899, Nos. 29-31—may be read.

We may first set the report in type, and in this view call for an urgent proof.

Rebati—5th April 1900

C. G.—5th April 1900.

Chief Commissioner has already seen a copy of this, so it may be sent to Press as quickly as possible.

5th April 1900.

A. P.

Send to Press for a very urgent proof. I hope Mr. Francis will do his best to push this through quickly, as the Chief Commissioner is anxious to have a proof without delay.

5th April 1900.

L. J. K.

Secretary,

Proof herewith in duplicate.

C. F.—6th April 1900.

Personal Assistant,

Proof of report put up. The points for orders are—

- (1) Detention of Mishmi chiefs as hostages (paragraphs 30 and 68 of report)—*vide* office note of 5th April 1900 above.
- (2) Presentation of a good Government gun for services rendered during the expedition to (1) Noga, (2) Ethakron, (3) Bapa Pulu, (4) Turo, (5) Anakron, and (6) Grambon. Also a present of Rs. 200 to Grambon—(*vide* paragraphs 65 and 66 of report).

[The proposal for payment of Rs. 150 as compensation to Grambon (paragraph 66) has not been received by us in office.]

Paragraph 67.—Extract will be given to General Branch for necessary action.

* Page 12, K. W. No. 1 to For., A,
Nov. 1897, Nos. 15-104.

The report will now have to be sent to Government of India with a covering letter,* as usual.

Rebati—7th April 1900.

Clean proof should be printed and put up to Secretary.

7th April 1900.

A. P.

Chief Commissioner,

9th April 1900.

L. J. K.

[The last paragraph had, I think, better be struck out* of Mr. Reid's covering letter. Mr. Needham sent a copy of his own report to Colonel Molesworth.]

* Done.—Rebati.

I have now prepared a covering letter to India, which I should like to see in proof as soon as possible. It has not been an easy business, and I have said as little as I could.

A copy should be sent to Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, to carry out the instructions it contains.

A copy (with its enclosures) should be sent to the General Officer Commanding for information.

12th April 1900.

H. J. S. C.

Early proof, please.

12th April 1900.

L. J. K.

Personal Assistant,

Clean proof put up.

Tarini—13th April 1900.

Secretary,

14th April 1900.

A. P.

Chief Commissioner,

* Diary No. 262For.—(not linked). With the proof I put up the military report,* which you may care to see, and which has arrived by this morning's dāk.

16th April 1900.

L. J. K.

Secretary,

Please let me have clean proof of draft to India as soon as possible.

16th April 1900.

H. J. S. C.

Please treat as very urgent. A clean proof by 12 o'clock, if possible.

17th April 1900.

L. J. K.

Secretary,

Proof of letter to Foreign Department for approval.

Rebati—17th April 1900.

C. G.—17th April 1900.

Chief Commissioner,

17th April 1900.

L. J. K.

Issue.

17th April 1900.

H. J. S. C.

Without delay, please. Send two spare copies to General Officer Commanding.

17th April 1900.

L. J. K.

[To the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 231For.—1379P., dated the 17th April 1900.]

[To the General Officer Commanding Assam District, No. 231For.—1380P., dated the 17th April 1900.]

[To the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, No. 231For.—1381P., dated the 17th April 1900.]

General Branch,

Please take necessary action on paragraph 67 of Mr. Needham's report on the Mishmi expedition. Receiving copy put up.

Rebati—21st April 1900.

Taken.

D. N.—21st April 1900.

Assistant Secretary,

In accordance with the precedent* of the Apa Tanang expedition, we may send a copy of Mr. Needham's report with Mr. Reid's covering letter and our letter to India for information to Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, the Inspector General of Police, Assam, the Principal Medical Officer, and the Quartermaster General in India.

Necessary drafts put up for approval.

2. Copies have already been sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, who will no doubt communicate a copy to Mr. Needham. But as the Chief Commissioner has bestowed special praise on Mr. Needham, it would perhaps be graceful to send him* a copy direct.

* Send.—H. C.

Draft put up in case approved.

3. For orders as to whether copies need be sent to Deputy Commissioners, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Naga Hills, and Nowgong, who collected coolies for the expedition.

We have got ample copies printed; and should it be decided to send copies to these Deputy Commissioners, they will be included in the draft memorandum to Commissioner put up for approval.

Rebati—21st April 1900.

C. G.—21st April 1900.

Secretary,

Drafts are in order, and may issue.

After issue we must give specific sanction to purchase of guns and to presentation of Rs. 200, and ask Deputy Commissioner to report total cost with reference to paragraph 7 of our letter to the Foreign Department. Copy to Comptroller.

For action taken on these orders, vide
Diary No. 336For.—P. of 1900.—Rebati.

23rd April 1900.

H. C.

24th April 1900.

L. J. K.

[Memorandum to the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, the Inspector General of Police, Assam, the Principal Medical Officer and Sanitary Commissioner, Assam, and the Deputy Commissioners, Nowgong, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and Naga Hills, Nos. 231For.—1538-43P., dated the 24th April 1900.]

[Memorandum to the Quartermaster General in India, No. 231For.—1544P., dated the 24th April 1900.]

[Memorandum to F. J. Needham, Esq., C.I.E., No. 231For.—1545P., dated the 24th April 1900]

TELEGRAM FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
No. 984E.-B., DATED THE 8TH MAY 1900.

Enquires what was the cost of the Bebejiya Mishmi expedition chargeable to the Civil Department.

Assistant Secretary,

India's orders regarding the apportionment of the cost of the expedition between the Civil and Military Departments were conveyed in Foreign Department letter

* Page 2, For., A, Mar. 1900, Nos. 8-17.

No. 1976E.B.,* dated the 20th December 1899.

We have sanctioned advances as under—

						Rs.
Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	...	...	18,700
Ditto, Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	16,000
Ditto, Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	3,000
Total	...	...	...	...	...	37,700

Portions of these advances have been adjusted, but we are not aware what proportion, even of these amounts, would be debitable to Civil and what to Military. Besides, there are many other items unknown to us.

We may, therefore, send this unofficially to Comptroller for favour of very early compliance.

Rebati—9th May 1900.

C. G.—9th May 1900.

Comptroller, unofficially,

Can you favour us with the figures asked for? If not immediately ascertainable, can you give us approximate figures?

9th May 1900.

H. C.

Up to date the net debit, which I have passed on to the Military Department, amounts to Rs. 32,742-10, and the amounts charged off to Special Police on my books on account of the Mishmi expedition come to Rs. 6,021-13-3. The Military Department, however, have not yet finally accepted the debit of Rs. 32,742, and possibly some portion of this may have to be written back.

10th May 1900.

A. N.

Secretary,

In our memorandum No. 489For.—3834P., dated the 15th September 1899, we asked Comptroller to keep separate accounts of all expeditionary charges. In their letter No. 1976E.-B., dated the 20th December 1899,* the Government of India decided that the Military estimates would bear only those charges which were directly connected with the employment of troops. These vague orders were communicated to officers concerned. Beyond this no orders were issued.

In addition to the Rs. 6,022 debited to Civil, the Public Works Department have incurred some expenditure on repairing roads and crossing troop, and the Police budget is bearing cost of renewal of outfit for the Military Police employed on the expedition. We may wire to India—

“Your 984E. B., dated 8th. Comptroller reports that up to date Rs. 6,022 have been debited to Civil for cost of Mishmi expedition. This does not include expenditure incurred by Public Works on roads, and by Police budget on renewal of Military Police sepoys’ outfit.” } A

10th May 1900.

H. C.

Chief Commissioner,

The Government of India have wired to us urgent, asking the cost of the Mishmi expedition debitable to Civil. The information at A of Assistant Secretary’s note above is all at our disposal, and is sufficiently non-committal.

10th May 1900.

L. J. K.

10th May 1900.

J. B. F.

[Telegram to the [Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1892P., dated the 10th May 1900.]

FROM THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, LAKHIMPUR, NO. 311G., DATED THE 16TH MAY 1900.

Reports that the hostages brought from the Mishmi Hills in connection with the Mitaigaon massacre have been released.

Assistant Secretary,

Information. Need not apparently be reported to India—(vide paragraph 6 of our letter No. 231For.—1379P., dated the 17th April 1900).

Rebati—22nd May 1900.

C. G.—23rd May 1900.

25th May 1900.

H. C.

27th May 1900.

L. J. K.

Recorded by—R. M. De—6th Sep. 1900.

Fxd. by—M. A.

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ASSAM SECRETARIAT PROCEEDINGS.

FOREIGN—A.

AUGUST 1900.

Report on the Bebejiya Mishmi Expedition, 1899-1900.

No. 46.

Telegram dated 8th February 1900.

From—Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh,

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Assam, Shillong.

Mr. Needham wires :—*Begins* —“ Molesworth wants me give him my report on expedition. Please ask Secretary for orders.”—*Ends*. Suggest that Mr. Needham's report is political, and does not immediately concern Officer Commanding Expedition. Solicit orders.

No. 47.

Telegram No. 533P., dated 10th February 1900.

From—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Assam, Shillong,

To—Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh.

Your wire of 8th. In accordance with usual practice, the report of Political Officer should be submitted direct to Civil authority, but a copy should be sent to Officer Commanding Expedition without avoidable delay.

(7) 2

Report on the Bebejiya Mishmi Expedition, 1899-1900.

No. 2369G.

FROM

W. J. REID, Esq., I.C.S.,

Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASSAM.

Dibrugarh, the 30th March 1900.

SIR,

IN continuation of the correspondence on the subject of the outrage perpetrated by Bebejiya Mishmis at Mitaigaon in May 1899 and the measures adopted to punish the offending tribe, I have the honour to forward the report of Mr. F. J. Needham, C.I.E., who accompanied the punitive expedition as Political Officer.

Mr. Needham's report is a lengthy one, and requires very little comment. The composition and disposition of the expeditionary force are questions to be discussed elsewhere. The objects of the expedition were 'to recover the captives carried off in May 1899, to arrest, if possible, the actual perpetrators of the outrage, and to punish the tribe to which they belonged.' There was also the murder of three of our sepoy near Bomjir in 1893, for which no retribution had been exacted. In addition to the primary objects of the expedition, it was believed that there would be an opportunity of surveying a large tract of country hitherto unexplored, and of collecting valuable information regarding the language, manners, and customs of the Mishmis, which would simplify our political relations with them in the future. Mr. Needham claims that the expedition was, on the whole, successful, and that the major portion of the task allotted was accomplished. He points out that we have now demonstrated to the Mishmis that a force can enter their country by either of the two routes from the plains. The captive children and one gun have been recovered, and besides the actual burning of villages and loss caused thereby, the inhabitants must have suffered through being compelled to leave their homes at a trying season of the year. None of the actual murderers have been arrested, but with the knowledge now gained of the Mishmi country, there is nothing surprising in this. Mr. Needham arrested three *gams* at Elanpu. One effected his escape subsequently, but the other two are in confinement at Sadiya. There was evidence to show their complicity with the Bebejiyas who are wanted by us, and I would submit that their arrest was justified, and ask permission to detain them at Sadiya for the present, as there appears to be no other means of getting hold of the murderers.

The report contains much interesting and valuable information regarding two tribes of whom little or nothing was known before. Mr. Needham frankly admits that his former opinions on the behaviour and disposition of the Mishmis were erroneous, and now considers that we are not likely to have more trouble with them than with any of the other tribes on our borders. ||

In paragraph 67 of the report, Mr. Needham explains why it was impossible for him to collect specimens of the Mishmi language for the purposes of the linguistic survey.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. J. REID,

Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur.

No. 180, dated Sadiya, the 1st March 1900.

From—F. J. NEEDHAM, Esq., C.I.E., Political Officer, Mishmi Expedition,
To—The Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam (through the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur).

[NOTE.—All italicised "n"s in this report are silent, like the French *n* in *un* = one, etc.]

In continuation of previous correspondence on the subject of an outrage at Mitaigaon in May 1899 by Bebejiya Mishmis, I have the honour to submit the following report showing the steps taken to avenge the same, recover the captive children and the stolen guns, and arrest the murderers.

2. Mr. Cotton recommended that the expeditionary force should consist of 500 men with half a company of Sappers and Miners, and the Military authorities concurring, this force was duly collected at Sadiya during November 1899 and placed under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Molesworth, of the 44th Gurkha Rifles, two mountain guns with their complement of porters being subsequently added to it. I accompanied the force as Political Officer.

3. While the necessity of an expedition against the offending tribe, and the strength of the force to be used, etc., were under the consideration of the Government of India, I received a demi-official letter from the officer in charge of the Intelligence Branch of the Quartermaster General's Department, asking my opinion, amongst other matters, about the best route into the Bebejiya country, and I replied that it should either be *via* Diphu and Bishmnagar, or *via* Sanpura and the Digaro river, and thence over the hills bordering on the plains. However, after consulting the Chulikatta Mishmi chiefs, whose villages lie on this side of the gorge of the Dibong, I decided to take the one going through our Bomjur outpost to Grambon's (Chulikatta) village, and thence over the pass into the Bebejiya country, and my chief reasons for doing so were:—(a) a good cart-road exists between Sadiya and our Bomjur outpost, (b) Bomjur forms a first-class main base for collecting supplies and making a start from, (c) by using this route the force would escape having to march some 30 miles through virgin, and consequently unhealthy, forest at an unhealthy time of year, and (d) the heart of the Bebejiya country could be reached quicker by this route than by any other; and I am now convinced that I chose the right route: in fact it was the only feasible one for the force we had.

4. I have since ascertained that the route *via* Sanpura and the Digaro river leads to a pass known to the Bebejiyas as the Perlo, which strikes the Bebejiya country a long way (probably two or three days' journey) east of Pika. This is the route taken by the Mitaigaon raiders when making their escape to the hills, as they thought they would be more likely to evade pursuit by going that way should we determine to follow them up. This (Perlo) pass is regularly used by Bebejiyas trading with the Digaros, who reside nearest to the plains on the right bank of the Brahmaputra, and likewise by Bebejiyas wishing to visit our shops at Chongkham on the Tengapani. It strikes the valley of the Brahmaputra to the north-east of the Digaro river, and although not as high as the pass we used, the path leading up to and over it is said to be extremely difficult.

5. The other path, *viz.*, through Diphu and Bishmnagar, turns due west at the latter place and joins the hills leading to the pass we took, somewhere between our camp 5 and 5A. It will be understood from what I have said above that two routes only exist from the Bebejiya land to the plains, *viz.*, (a) the one we used, (b) the Perlo pass.

6. The pass we crossed is known to the Bebejiyas as the Maiyu, our Sajuba, or Sadiya Peak, is called Si, while the spot we called 6A is known as Chepahun, and the high ridge to the west of camp 6 is called Macupa. The whole country in fact from Grambon's village up has been christened! The local name for the hill after leaving Grambon's village, which the Sappers and Miners zigzagged so successfully, is Emachupaeta; the steep hill after leaving our camp 5A, the Asipu, and the steep slopes, some 1½ or 2 miles Grambon's side of our camp 6, where the Sappers and Miners worked so hard, the Ikulama (or Lama dog). A legend exists that in years gone by a Sutiya king gave a Bebejiya chief a Lama dog, and the dog died after reaching this spot on its way to the Bebejiya chief's village. The pass itself is 8,900 feet above sea-level, and

the path up to it from the plains is a fairly good one (I allude to the Bebejiya path before it was improved by the Sappers and Miners). Being so high, it is subject periodically, during the winter months, to heavy snowstorms, but, as there are numerous rocks and trees about the pass and its vicinity, affording some shelter from the biting cold blasts which usually accompany snowstorms, and there are no avalanches to be apprehended, it cannot be called a dangerous pass. I may add that it is regularly used yearly by the Bebejiyas (often accompanied by women and children) who visit Sadiya, and during the time we were at Hunili, it was crossed on several occasions, and while heavy snow lay on the ground, by my Khamti dāk runners, and several Chulikatta Mishmis who carried letters backwards and forwards between Hunili and Grambon's.

7. It proved a serious impediment to us, but this was owing to our coolies being insufficiently clad and being without shoes of any sort, and I believe we lost a good many coolies while endeavouring to work supplies for our force over the pass.

Pass proves a serious impediment to crossing such a large force as we had.

8. The distance between Grambon's village and the pass is only about 16 miles (not so much by the old Bebejiya path before it was touched by the Sappers and Miners), but it nevertheless took us over three weeks to move enough supplies for our whole force from the former place to camp 6 near the ridge! Had our force consisted of two instead of six hundred men, we could have reached the ridge with all necessary supplies, and been over the pass into the Bebejiya country long before any snow fell.

9. While the path up to the Maiyu pass was being reconnoitred and improved, I sent Turo (late Kalidoi's son) and another friendly Chulikatta into the Bebejiya country to inform the several headmen that we were about to visit their country in order to punish the perpetrators of the Mitaigaon outrage and recover the captive children and stolen guns, and as I then knew the names of the Bebejiyas who had purchased the captive children and guns, I sent them special messages, directing them to bring them in at once, on pain of being severely punished when we arrived in their country if they did not do so, and on the 19th December 1899 my messengers returned and reported that the Bebejiyas who possessed the captive children and guns had not only refused to give them up, but had sent back impertinent messages, saying they would try conclusions with us on the road, etc., and these messages came from the following men, *viz.*:

- | | | |
|--|-----|---|
| (a) Pongon M'dere, one of the healmen of Elanpu. | ... | Bebejiya chief who purchased the boy captive. |
| (b) Ethanon Milon, one of the headmen of Apali. | ... | One of the men who murdered Lakai near Dikrang in 1884. He is related to Ahonlon, the leader of the Mitaigaon outrage, and is in possession of a double-barrel gun* taken from Mitaigaon. |
| (c) Atuma Misa, one of the headmen of Pika | ... | Bebejiya chief who purchased the female captive, also one gun which he subsequently gave or sold to Maulon of Rangon. |
| (d) Maulon Mimi, one of the headmen of Rangon. | ... | Bebejiya chief in possession of one of the guns stolen from Mitaigaon. |
| (e) Ahonlon and crew of five others of Abran- | ... | Bebejiya chief who headed the outrage at Mitai-gaon. |

10. I arrived at camp 6 (2½ miles south-west of the Maiyu pass) on the 20th December 1899, and on the 26th and 27th idem a little snow fell. On the 28th idem Colonel Molesworth and I crossed the pass with the marginally-noted force, and proceeded in the direction of Hunili, the first Bebejiya village met with after crossing the pass, but our movements were so slow, owing to our long line, the difficulty of the country for guns, and the necessity of scouting to discover the locality of the booby traps I was told we should find in position along our path, that it took us four days to get there. There are two rocky caves between our camp 6

Crossing the pass and entering the Bebejiya country.

50 Rifles, 42nd	...	Scouts	and
Gurkha Rifles.		ad v a n c e d	
		guards.	
30 Jats	...	Gun escort.	
50 Sappers and Miners.	}	Main body.	
50, 43rd.			
50, 44th			
35, Military Police.		Baggage guard.	
25, ditto		Rear guard.	

* Since recovered and brought in by Malon's (*vide* paragraph 30 *post*) relatives.—F. J. N.

and the ridge ($2\frac{1}{2}$ miles) called Aukoson and Arunyi, used frequently as camping places by the Bebejiyas, while hunting Takin in the vicinity of the pass.

11. The distance from our camp 6 near the Maiyu pass to Hunili is about 16 miles only (possibly less), but between the two spots we had to make three jumping stations for supplies, which were subsequently known as 6A, 6B, and 6C.

12. Our route on the 28th December lay down a steep and broken hill known locally as Apringon (which had a good deal of snow lying about on it that day) to the Embron, a small river flowing north, and after crossing the Embron, we wound about amongst numerous steep spurs on, but above, its right bank, and finally camped for the night above the stream at a spot known locally as Embronlapai, distance from the ridge 3 miles. This spot was afterwards known as 6A.

Short description of route from the pass to Hunili.

On the 29th idem Captain Howard, of the 10th Jats, with a few of his men, was left at 6A, and we proceeded on our journey. The path, after leaving 6A, goes down a second steep hill, known locally as Ekana, to a stream called the Pron, running to the north-east, and after crossing the Pron, it goes up a steepish hill, then winds in and out amongst numerous steep spurs, and going down for a while, crosses a stony nullah (dry when we crossed it), known locally as Alithun, then runs up a second stony nullah (also dry when we were there) for a few yards, and suddenly turns at right angles up the face of a precipitous and rocky spur, upon which we found no less than thirteen booby traps in position, but luckily for us they were not held. The guns had to be left behind here on that date (29th December), and the camp was afterwards known as 6B. After leaving the locality of the thirteen booby traps mentioned, the path winds about amongst numerous steep spurs, and at 4 p.m. we found ourselves on the slopes of a steep hill, known locally as Bu, where we found a single booby trap in position just above our path, but it was not held, and after clearing it away, we camped on the spot for the night, as it was getting late. We did only $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles that day, as we wasted some time in bridging the Pron, scouting for booby traps and clearing them out of our way, etc. On the 30th December we came upon two other booby traps in position, and these were held in a half-hearted manner, one actually being cut adrift, but it luckily did no damage. The path, like the one we had travelled over on the two previous days, wound in and out of precipitous spurs above the Pron, sometimes ascending, sometimes descending, and that afternoon we camped close to a river called the Ku, running to the north, 3,080 feet above sea-level, and distant from 6B about 2 miles. On the 31st idem we halted here, and the spot was afterwards known as 6C, and Colonel Molesworth sent a small party under Captain Robson to occupy the village of Hunili.

13. On the 1st January 1900 Colonel Molesworth and I arrived at Hunili, 3,880 feet above sea-level, which had been vacated before Captain Robson arrived in it, and from that

Arrival at Hunili.

date bad weather set in, and a good deal of snow fell on all the high hills, including the Maiyu pass, and matters got so bad by the 7th idem that Colonel Molesworth consulted me about the advisability of directing the major portion of his force to retire over the Maiyu pass, and thence back to Grambon and Bomjur, we continuing our journey to Kalidoi's and Aiyu Mimi's, with 120 sepoys and such coolies as were required to move us, and returning to Bomjur *via* Nizamghat, and as I strongly supported this suggestion, being convinced from the very first that our force was more than double as large as was required for the work we had to perform, orders were at once issued to the officers in our rear, but it was not until the 21st idem that sufficient rations reached us to enable us to move on towards Kalidoi's and Nizamghat. The guns were brought into Hunili safely on the 3rd January, but Colonel Molesworth decided, and I think rightly so, not to attempt to take them any further, so they were sent back about the time that orders were given by him for the major portion of his force to retire over the pass.

14. The village of Hunili, consisting of fourteen houses and a small off-shoot, called Koni, of seven houses to the south, but within sight of it, on one of the steep spurs of the Ku river, lies on the left bank of the Ithun, in about the centre of the Bebejiya country, and at the very door, so to speak, of the Maiyu pass, so that it was usual in years gone by to blame the Hunili people for all offences committed by any members of the Bebejiya tribe.

Short description of Hunili.

"Your village lies close to the pass, so all raiders and bad characters must pass through it to get to the plains, and you must know all about them," was the stereotyped message Huvili received every time any Bebejiya was alleged to have incurred our displeasure, and, as in those days murders and other outrages were common, the Huvili people found themselves so often blamed for these that a deputation of *gams*, I am told, came down to Sadiya and interviewed Rai Lahmon Das, Bahadur (who was in charge of Sadiya at the time), about the matter. They pointed out that they traded regularly at our marts, that it was to their interests to keep on friendly terms with us, as their village lies close to our territory, and after assuring him that neither they nor any of their clansmen had had anything to do with any of the outrages alleged to have been committed by Bebejiyas, they took an oath, after the Bebejiya fashion, binding themselves and their people to continue on friendly terms with our Government, and promised to endeavour to prevent any Bebejiyas from raiding in the plains in future, and I am told that they have since loyally kept their word. These facts, which I had never heard before, were given to me by my Chulikatta guides while halting on the Maiyu pass, but I had to take them *cum grano salis*, and when I found the village deserted, and that nothing would induce the headmen to come in and see me, I did not quite believe them, though now, after careful enquiries on the spot, I do. I am sorry, therefore, that we were compelled to occupy the village as long as we did, for it was impossible not to do it some damage during our long stay there, while one villager was shot, and another, if not two, wounded the morning after our force arrived there, but as it happens, we could not have sat down anywhere else than where we did while waiting for our supplies from the pass.

15. The day after my arrival at the village I tried to induce the headmen (Arati, Akopan, Impu, of the Mison clan) to come in and see me, but they persistently held aloof until about a week before we contemplated leaving the place, when old Nasi (*vide* paragraph 18 *post*) succeeded in persuading one of them, called Arati, to come in.

16. I told him that I had heard of his clan's uniform good behaviour in years gone by, and their desire to continue on friendly terms with us, but added that I was surprised that his clansmen had run away and refused to come in and see me sooner, especially as I had requested them to do so; and he explained that it was fear only which had made them all run away. He said they had heard heavy firing the day we were coming to the village (we had fired some volleys into the jungle, and had blasted some rocks the following day), and so thought we intended killing them all. Arati likewise informed me that he and his people had placed a live cock and some eggs outside the village as an emblem of peace, and had cut a broad path leading to Abrangon (both statements are true), hoping we would go there and not occupy their village; and that when they saw our force walk right into the village and occupy it, they were afraid to show themselves. I may here mention that Arati and his villagers did us a good service just about the time we were leaving Huvili. Some 50 odd bags of rice, with numerous tarpaulins, had been abandoned at camp 5 by our men, as it was found impossible, owing to the continuance of bad weather, to carry them back over the pass, and as Colonel Molesworth wished to save the waterproof bags and tarpaulins, he asked me if I could get some Mishmis to carry the latter back to Grambon's village for us, and upon my asking Arati to help us, he did so, by inducing his clansmen to carry back all the waterproof bags and tarpaulins. We allowed him to take all the rice as compensation, but the weather was so bad at the time on the pass, that it was a difficult task to carry our stuff over it and down to Grambon, but Arati men successfully performed the job, and brought us a receipt for everything while we were halting at Abrangon.

17. During our halt at Huvili I had several important matters to enquire into, *viz.*, ascertain for certain with whom, and in what villages, the captive children and the stolen guns were, and the best means of recovering them; obtain the correct names and residences of the Bebejiyas who committed the outrage at Mitaigaon, and determine what steps should be taken to arrest or punish them; enquire what villages had been most active in erecting the numerous booby traps we had encountered between the Maiyu pass and Huvili; collect the names of the several Bebejiya villages, number of houses in each, and the names of their several tribal divisions; enquire into their manners and customs and their territorial divisions, etc., etc.; and in all these matters I received very valuable help from the following Chulikatta chiefs, *viz.*, Noga, son of Lakho, deceased; Ethakron, son of Yosa, deceased; and Bapa Pulu, all residing on the low hills on this side of the gorge of the Dibong. The last-

Work accomplished while halting at Huvili.

named, Bapa, was most indefatigable in his searches for the captive children and the guns, and after making several long and trying journeys (for the weather we experienced at that time made travelling most arduous and uncomfortable), he succeeded in recovering both the children and one of the stolen guns.

18. During our halt at Hunili I received several visits from Sondon Mega, the Bebejiya who was arrested in May 1899 near Sengsap and kept in custody at Sadiya till 7th September 1899, and whose relations, in order to secure his speedy release, recovered one of the captive children and a gun for us; also from old Nasi Mendon, the only Bebejiya chief who accompanied me to the Calcutta Exhibition in 1884, and his son, of Ahondon, on the right bank of the Ithun, 5 or 6 miles west of Hunili, and they supplied me, from time to time, with a lot of very valuable information. They likewise brought in a good many presents of pigs, fowls, and eggs from Eani, Adopoiya, Runli, Guangan, Eyali, Chiengbun, Metakan, Donyi, etc. (all on the right bank of Ithun, east of Hunili). Many Bebejiyas from those villages accompanied Nasi, but there were no representative men amongst them.

Old Nasi informed me that he had been on bad terms with Ahonlon (the Bebejiya who headed the Mitaigaon outrage) and his people for years past, and that Sondon (the Bebejiya arrested at Sadiya in May 1899, on suspicion of being one of the Mitaigaon raiders) had recently joined him (Nasi), being determined to revenge himself on Ahonlon for all he (Sondon) had suffered on his account. Nasi also informed me that Runji Mega (now old and infirm, but said still to possess a lot of influence among the Bebejiyas), of Runli, or Runi, a village on the right bank of the Ithun, had sent me in a respectful message to say that the Bebejiyas, as a whole, are most friendly inclined towards our Government, that they had never done anything to incur our displeasure and never would, so he hoped I would not burn their villages indiscriminately, merely because one or two bad characters had incurred our displeasure. Old Nasi also corroborated the story told me, as related in paragraph 14 *ante*, about the general good behaviour of the Hunili clan, and stated that Inipu (one of the headmen of Hunili) had been on bad terms with Ethanon Mison ever since he went down to the plains, and murdered Lakai at Dikrang in 1884 (*vide* paragraph 23 *post*). He likewise informed me that the booby traps we encountered between the Maiyu pass and Hunili were erected by Bebejiyas from Pika, Apali, Abrangon, and Elanpu, and that it was intended to hold them, only the weather became so unsettled on the 28th December, and it looked so like snow that the Bebejiyas left their defences and went home, and in the meantime we left the pass, and had marched through most of them before the Bebejiyas returned to hold them.

19. The female captive was recovered from a Bebejiya called Atuma Mison, one of the headmen of Pika, which lies on the left bank of the Ithun, 5 or 6 miles east of Hunili; the male captive from a Bebejiya called Pongon M'dere, one of the headmen of Elanpu, a village on the left bank of the Ithun, 7 miles west of Hunili, and the gun from a Bebejiya called Malon Mimi, of Rangon, a village on the left bank of the Ithun close to Elanpu. These three men are mentioned in paragraph 9 *ante*, and they behaved in a most contumacious manner from first to last, for even after we arrived at Hunili, they refused to part with their purchases. Just before our arrival at Hunili they left their villages and went about the country, trying to dispose of the captives and gun to Bebejiyas living at a distance, but as it was then known, far and wide, that our force, or a portion of it, had started for, if not reached, Hunili, no Bebejiya would trade, or even allow the possessors of the children or gun to remain in or near their villages. Hence, when they failed to procure purchasers, they at last consented to make them over to my messengers, who had followed them about the country, but even then not until they (the messengers, who were Chulikattas) promised to hold themselves personally responsible to pay two *mithans* for the girl; two *mithans* for the boy; and one *mithan* for the gun. So I made up my mind to punish them as severely as I could as soon as I was able to get hold of them.

20. Having acquainted Colonel Molesworth with the above facts, I requested him to have Pika, which has nine houses, destroyed, and on the 18th January he sent a small force under Major Anderson to destroy it.

21. My reasons for destroying it are as follows. After the outrage at Mitaigaon the culprits returned with their spoil (three captive children and three guns) to the Bebejiya Hills by the Perlo pass (*vide* paragraph 4 *ante*), and as Pika lies on the track from the pass to

their houses, they spent two days there with Atuma, and shortly afterwards the said Atuma purchased the girl captive from Ahonlon (the Bebejiya who headed the Mitaigaon raid), and all attempts made by me to persuade him to give her up failed, until sometime after our force arrived at Hunili, and he had failed to dispose of her to some other Bebejiya, and even then he made the messenger I sent to demand her rendition promise to pay him two *mithans* for her, and in addition to these facts, I was convinced, from information I had collected at Hunili, that the said Atuma and his clansmen had helped to erect booby traps in our path between the Maiyu pass and Hunili, and had openly given out that he would help to oppose our entering the Bebejiya country, although he knew that our object in doing so was to punish the perpetrators of the Mitaigaon outrage, and recover the captives.

22. Major Anderson, who commanded the force sent to destroy Pika, also destroyed Chaini, six houses, and Dengi, twelve houses, all deserted. Both villages lie close to Pika (on the left bank of the Ithun). Major Anderson found both villages stockaded and *panjied*, so he destroyed them. My guides informed me afterwards that they were stockaded and *panjied*, because they are at loggerheads with a village lying further inland, but Major Anderson is still of opinion that the *panjis*, from the peculiar manner they had been fixed, were meant for us.

23. I have omitted to mention that on the 6th January we marched with a small force from Hunili to Apali, a Bebejiya village lying on the left bank of the Ithun, some three miles west of Hunili, and destroyed it, my reasons for doing so being as follows.

In May 1884 Lako Chulikatta chief died shortly after his return from the Calcutta Exhibition, and in the same month of the same year one of our Khamti scouts (we had Khamti and Dowaniya scouts in those days, whose duty it was to watch the movements of the Chulikattas and Bebejias, but they were subsequently disbanded at my suggestion) called Lakai was shot close to Dikrang by Mishmis.

The deceased Lako Chulikatta's clan was blamed at the time for the deed, it being supposed that they had committed it to avenge their chief's death, on the plea that it had been accelerated by his trip to and from the Calcutta Exhibition.

Lako's sons and other relations indignantly denied the deed at the time, and said it was the work of two Bebejias called Ethanon and Runji, but they were not believed, and we blockaded both tribes (Chulikattas and Bebejias) as a punishment for the outrage (*vide* this office No. 110, dated the 18th May 1884, and other correspondence on the matter).

24. The true story of the attack on Lakai at Dikrang in May 1884 was thus given me at Hunili. Years ago (during Rai Lahmon Das, Bahadur's incumbency) two Bebejias called Muki and Muti Mega of Ebrani, a village on the right bank of the Ithun, below or west of Hunili, murdered a Khamti in the plains, and Rai Lahmon persuaded the deceased Lako Chulikatta chief to avenge the deed which he did, by waylaying both men while they were on their way to purchase *mithan* from the Abors, and killing them.

After this Ethanon, who is a natural son of the deceased Muki, in company with Runji, son of Cha, avenged his father's death by shooting the scout Lakai at Dikrang.

Soon after this outrage, we blockaded both the Chulikattas and Bebejias, and as Lako's clan were accused of having committed the deed, the latter induced a Bebejiya called Kuni Mison, of Chiingbon (on the right bank of the Ithun), to shoot Runji, but Kuni, being unable to meet Runji, shot his father Cha instead, and the head was subsequently shown to the Chief Commissioner [Mr. (now Sir Charles) Elliott] and myself at Nizamghat, in, I think, 1885, by the deceased Lako's relations, and he and his clan begged the Chief Commissioner to raise the blockade, on the ground that they had avenged Lakai's death, but the Chief Commissioner refused to do so, on the ground that there was nothing to satisfy us that the head which had been produced was really the head of one of the Bebejias who murdered Lakai! Runji has not yet avenged himself on Noga's clan for the death of his father, but I am told that he is only biding his time, that is, waiting for a good chance.

This man, Ethanon, is related to Ahonlon (the leader of the Mitaigaon outrage) and Pongon M'dere of Elanpu (*vide* paragraph 9 *ante*), and he received a double-barrel gun from the first named, which was taken from Mitaigaon during the time of the outrage there, in May 1899, and although repeatedly requested to return it by messengers sent specially by me from Hunili and elsewhere, he persistently refused to do so, and when pressed, he left the vicinity of his own village with the gun, and went off to his brother-in-law's village, which is high up the Dibong, above Kalidoi's village.

25. Sufficient rations having been collected at Hunili, to last our force till the 6th February, by the 21st January, we marched on the 22nd idem, with part of our force, to Abrangon, 3,575 feet above sea-level, and I took the captive children with me, as I was afraid to send them back over the Maiyu pass, owing to their being very scantily clothed and having no blankets. The little boy had to be carried everywhere, as he was too small to walk, and my Chulikatta guides, who were at all times most kind to both children, and looked after and fed them from the time I recovered them till our arrival at Nizamghat and Sadiya, performed this duty. Abrangon lies on the left bank of the Ithun, south-west of Hunili about seven miles, and contains twenty-four houses. It is the residence of five out of the six Bebejiyas who committed the outrage at Mitaigaon in May 1899. The real names of all six men, gleaned from several sources on the spot, are as follows:

- (1) Ahonlon M'dere of Abrangon ... Leader of the Mitaigaon outrage.
- (2) Chenchen Mili of Abrangon ... Nephew of No. 1 (No. 1 married a woman of the Mili clan).
- (3) Yumapacha (M'pacha clan) of Abrangon.
- (4) Mauz Son Miton of Abrangon ... This man lived in the plains with Sika Chulikatta, whose village is close to Bishmunagar, for three or four years, and knew all about our outlying hamlets in that direction, and he is said to have piloted Ahonlon and party to Mitaigaon.
- (5) Chaka Mendon of Elanpu.
- (6) Melon M'dere of Abrangon.

26. The route to Abrangon from Hunili lies through Apali (the village we visited and burnt on 6th January, *vide* paragraph 23 *ante*). Soon after leaving Apali, the path goes up a steep hill, known locally as Apear, then there is a descent of 1,500 feet, down a steep hill, known locally as Eher, to the village, which had evidently been deserted several days before we appeared on the spot.

27. We halted at Abrangon on the 23rd and 24th January, the balance of our force and supplies arriving on the 23rd, and that evening I received a visit from Malon Mimi of Rangon and Pongon M'dere of Elanpu, accompanied by several men of both villages, carrying a few fowls and pigs as peace offerings. The chiefs were very profuse in their protestations of friendship, but when asked about Ahonlon and his crew's movements, stoutly denied knowing anything about them. They wished to speak to me, but I refused to see them, saying I would do so when I arrived in their own village. On the 24th idem Colonel Molesworth sent out three search parties to scour the jungles for Ahonlon and his crew, as I had received information from numerous sources that they were all in hiding in the hills adjacent to Abrangon, and I am still convinced that they were there, and nowhere else, while we were in their village, though the search proved futile as every body expected it would, for the jungles are so dense and the hills so steep and broken that men knowing the country could easily slip away and escape, from even a dozen search parties who did not know the country well.

28. On the 25th January we left Abrangon and marched to Elanpu, which is 4,300 feet above sea-level. The distance between the two villages is only about six miles, but it is a stiffish march, as the path, on leaving Abrangon, runs 500 feet up a steep hill, known as Apriangon, then 1,600 feet odd down a steep, stony, and broken

path to a fairly large stream called the Eher, running from the eastward into the Ithun, and 2,450 feet above sea-level, where we crossed it; then, after crossing to the left bank (of Eher), the path follows the bank over boulders for about half a mile or so, crosses another stream called the Enau (running at right angles to, and joining the Eher), and then 1,900 odd feet up a steep spur to the village (Elanpu).

29. On arriving at a spot a mile or so from the village, we found a number of men busy building *lean-tos* for us of plantain leaves, but as the weather looked very dirty and unsettled, we decided to go into the village, and occupy such houses as we required for our men, coolies, and stores. The village was full of people, but we soon got what houses we required, and made ourselves snug for the night.

30. On the night of the 25th it rained heavily, and heavy rain with thunderstorms fell all the 26th, on which day the balance of our force and stores arrived. In the afternoon of the latter day I informed Colonel Molesworth that I had collected a great deal of evidence against the headmen, and likewise against Malon, of Rangon, and that I thought they ought to be arrested, and their houses burnt. As he agreed with me, I sent for Pongon, Ekhoma, M'dere, son of Leki (who took it into his head to run off into the jungles before we arrived in the village) of Elanpu, and Malon Mimi of Rangon, and addressed them, in substance as follows:

You profess friendship, and pray that your villages may be spared, on the plea that you have done nothing to incur the displeasure of our Government, but I do not believe a word you say, as I have received ample evidence to satisfy me (a) that you Pongon and you Ekhoma are related to Ahonlon and Ethanon (*vide* paragraph 23 *ante*); (b) Chaka Mendon, one of the Bebejiyas that accompanied Ahonlon to Mitaigaon, resides in your village, and his house almost touches your own; (c) you knew when he left your village, at the end of April last, that he had gone to the plains to commit murder, and on his return from the plains, he related to you the mighty deeds that he and the others who accompanied him had done there, and he again took up his residence in your village, and was in it until very recently; (d) you all saw the boy captive and two guns which Ahonlon, Chaka, and Co. stole from the plains, for you Pongon purchased the boy, and you Malon one of the guns, and they were kept in this village for several months, and were known to every one in it; (e) you persistently refused to return either the captive boy or the gun when my Chulikatta messengers came here in December, and you sent back impertinent messages to say you would fight us if we attempted to come into your hills to demand their surrender; (f) you are related by marriage to Ethanon Mison (*vide* paragraph 22 *ante*) and knew that he committed an outrage on our subjects in the plains years ago. You knew also that he is in possession of a double-barrel gun given to him by Ahonlon, and stolen by him from Mitaigaon, and he has been seen repeatedly recently in your village with the said gun in his possession, and you are aware that he has persistently refused to give it up when asked to do so by the several messengers I have sent to direct him to do so since we arrived at Hunili, and lastly you all helped Ahonlon and his crew to erect booby traps in our path on the road between the Maiyu pass and Hunili, hence I consider you all deserving of punishment, and I intend to have you arrested, and shall take you back to Sadiya, unless your people take speedy means to arrest Ahonlon or some other member of his gang, and recover the double-barrel gun still in possession of Ethanon.

Several sepoys then surrounded the chiefs, and they were confined in the quarter-guard.

31. On the 27th idem we also halted at Elanpu, and the weather was cloudy and damp. In the afternoon, Turo, son of the deceased Kalidoi, arrived in camp with a *dak* from Nizamghat way, and reported that Lieutenant Carpenter, R.E., had come inside the gorge, and was busy improving the path onwards.

Arrival of Turo (Chulikatta), son of Kalidoi, deceased, with a *dak* from Nizamghat, and report that Lieutenant Carpenter has entered the gorge of the Dibong, and is improving the road there.

32. On the 28th idem, which was likewise cloudy and rainy-looking, we left Elanpu and marched to Ethoma, which is a Chulikatta village, and offshoot of Kalidoi's. It is rather a stiff march between the two places, as there is a steep ascent, after leaving Elanpu, up a hill, locally known as *Sonkon*, then a steep and tortuous descent to the Ithu, which is about two and half miles west of Elanpu, and forms the boundary between the Chulikatta and Bebejiya country on the left bank of the Ithun. We caught a sight of Aiyu Mimi's village in the distance while descending to the Ithun. After leaving the Ithun, there is a stiff climb to Ethoma, which has twenty houses. The people were all very friendly, and gave us up enough houses for our men and coolies, and 44 of them carried stores for us between the two villages. They likewise improved the path in several places. I have omitted to mention that

March to Ethoma, a Chulikatta village.

Colonel Molesworth directed Major Kerr, of the 44th, who was in command of the rear guard that day, to destroy the houses owned by Pongon, Ekthoma, and Chaka, before leaving the village, and this was duly done. I spared the rest of the village, because the people had all behaved very well during our stay in the place.

33. We had heavy rain again on the night of the 28th January, and so the path on the 29th idem was again muddy and slippery. We left Ethoma about 11 a. m. that morning, and marched to Kalidoi, 4,175 feet above sea-level, distance about four and half miles. On leaving Ethoma, the path goes up a steepish hill called Angechu for some 800 feet, then, after winding about for some time, it goes down a steep and uneven hill called Elapon for some 2,000 feet, ere Kalidoi's is reached. We arrived in the village about 2 p.m., and were well received. Turo, Kalidoi's (deceased) son, insisted upon our occupying his and his relation's houses, which are at the top of the village. The village has 40 houses and is known locally as Amili, which is the name of the fine commanding hill upon which it is built. From the top of this hill one has a very fine view of the valley of the Dibong to the north-west and north-east, and likewise to the south-east, up the valley of the Ithun, which flows into the Dibong to the eastward of, and just below, the village.

34. We halted at Amili on the 30th and 31st of January, and likewise on the 1st of February. On the 30th, Lieutenant Carpenter, R.E., with Lieutenant Holland and Captain Stevens, I.M.S., arrived from Konyi, with a large dâk, and went back again in the afternoon. Lieutenant Carpenter had been busy repairing the road in places from Nizamghat on. Lieutenant Holland, who was commanding the party, told me that the Chulikattas of Konyi and Chini had themselves repaired the path considerably in places, and that he and his party had been well received everywhere by the Chulikattas, whose villages he had passed through. Heavy rain fell during the night of the 30th January, also on the night of the 31st idem, and morning of 1st February, making everything very uncomfortable and the marching difficult.

35. On the 31st January Colonel Molesworth sent Major Kerr, of the 44th, with a small party to destroy Aiyu Mimi's village known locally as Enaiya, which lies on the right bank of the Ithun, north-east of Amili, about four or four and half miles. The village (Aiyu) is 4,250 feet above sea-level, and occupies a very commanding position, and the march to it from Amili is a very difficult one. On leaving Amili, a very steep, almost precipitous, descent of 2,800 feet to the Ithun, which is 1,450 feet above sea-level where crossed, has to be made, and then a steep ascent of 2,800 feet to the village. The force were all the 31st in reaching the Ithun and getting across it, and on the 1st February it marched to Aiyu, destroyed it, and returned to the river, and on the morning of the 2nd idem, it marched into Amili, every body wet through. Aiyu Mimi died two years ago, but his son Teli is still alive. It was he (Teli) and his cousin called Thosa, with others of the clan, who waylaid and killed our three sepoys close to Bomjur in 1893, and it was necessary to show both tribes that we could avenge such deeds whenever it suited us to do so. Aiyu is a Bebejiya, not a Chulikatta, as reported in paragraph 3 of my No. 135, dated the 7th December 1893, and the reasons given in that letter for the outrage having been committed are correct, except that it was the Abors who instigated them to do the deed, and not Sika as alleged by the deceased Lako's relations.

36. On the 2nd February we left Amili and marched to Konyi, marked Nupu, which is the name of the clan residing in it, on Woodthorpe's map. The village consists of 40 houses, but the people are alleged to be very poor. The march was a stiff one, as there are numerous steep spurs bordering on the Dibong to negotiate. It commenced to rain again just after we reached the village. We helped ourselves here, as we had done elsewhere, to such houses as we required for our force, and the people all seemed very friendly.

37. On the 3rd we left Konyi, and marched to Auozli, 20 houses, 3,300 feet above sea-level, marked Chini on Woodthorpe's map. Chini was headman in Woodthorpe's time, but is now dead. His son's name is Mala, and he rendered us good service by carrying our dâks, helping

(17)

Lieutenant Holland and party through from Nizamghat, while he and his people repaired all the bad places in the path very successfully.

We crossed two cane suspension bridges that day, *viz.*, one over a fairly large stream called Aiyu, and the second over a smaller stream called the Apo. Auonli is the last Chulikatta village lying contiguous to the path between Nizamghat and Kalidoi's.

38. On the 4th we marched to the Ayi, a large stream running from the eastward into the Dibong, and camped on the left bank, close to its junction with the Dibong, distance about seven miles. After leaving Auonli the path ascends for 300 or 400 feet, then winds about over and round numerous spurs, then goes down to a small stream called Ipu. There is a path just above the Ipu, leading east to a small Chulikatta village called Akoma. The village can be seen from the path. Distance to Ipu from Auonli about one-and-half to two miles. After crossing the Ipu, the path winds about among more spurs, then goes down to a second stream called the Ichi flowing to the westward, distance from the Ipu about half a mile. After this it crosses two other streams called the Po and the Iku (both flowing to the westward), and the last mile or so (after leaving the Iku) consists of a steep and broken descent to the Ayi, which is 1,230 feet above sea-level, where we camped. The Sappers and Miners improved the path a good deal between Auonli and the Ayi. It blows very hard, day and night, down all these rivers, so we had an uncomfortable night, though luckily the rain held off.

39. On the 5th February we left Ayi about 8 a.m., and marched to Nizamghat, arriving there about 3 p.m., after two hours' halt on the way, distance about nine miles, and the going very good and easy most of the way, as it is on the flat. About an hour after leaving the Ayi, we crossed a large stream called the Aton, flowing from the south eastward into the Dibong, and shortly afterwards we were walking down along the left bank of the Dibong itself, and passed a beautiful, long, placid pool called Akau by the Chulikattas. There is a similar pool called the Bu lower down, that is, nearer Nizamghat. Chulikattas visiting villages on the right bank cross in these two pools, on rafts. Some two or three miles up stream from Nizamghat, there is a precipitous and rocky hill, bordering on the Dibong, known locally as Maiya, where the going for laden coolies is very difficult, and even dangerous, as a single mistake would mean a sheer drop of several hundred feet over the *khud* into the river, or on to the boulders bordering on it, and the difficulty of negotiating this difficult spot is greatly enhanced by the stormy force of the wind, which whistles down the gorge at all times of the year. The Sappers and Miners did yeoman's service here, indeed but for them we should not have reached Nizamghat that day.

40. I think it may fairly be said that the expedition has successfully accomplished the major portion of the task which was set it, and we have demonstrated, in a forcible manner, to both tribes that, difficult as their country is, we can penetrate it with ease whenever it suits us to do so, either by using the Maiyu pass, or by entering the hills *via* Nizamghat. We failed to arrest any of the murderers, and this is not to be wondered at, considering the facility with which any one knowing the country can move about from one jungly and inaccessible fastness to another if any attempt is made to search for him, and the fact that no Mishmi will act as a spy, even against a member of a hostile clan, lest he should incur the displeasure of that clan, for once a blood-feud has been started, it is carried on from generation to generation with relentless severity; but we nevertheless punished them and their clansmen severely by destroying their houses and property, and loitering about in their country at a time when fresh lands have to be cleared, and prepared for next season's crops, etc., and there can be no doubt that these men will, now that we have left the country, still further suffer, and that some of them may even lose their lives at the hands of certain members of their own clan, for Arati Mison, one of the headmen of Huzili, told me distinctly that he did not blame us for having shot one and wounded another of his clansmen, or for damaging his village, and, by occupying it, compelling him and his fellow clansmen, with their wives and children, to reside for weeks in the jungles at the most inclement time of the year, but that he and his people would call Ahonlon (the leader of the Mitaigaon outrage) and his crew to account for these misfortunes; while Sondon Mega (the Bebejiya we arrested on suspicion in May 1899, and kept in the quarter-guard at Sadiya for weeks) told me he and his clan had determined to avenge themselves on Ahonlon.

Quon

and his crew for all the humiliation and trouble he (Sondon) had suffered on their account. In addition, too, to punishing the guilty and impressing both tribes with our power, we have mapped in a large tract of hitherto unknown country, and, had the weather been more propitious, we should have mapped in a good deal more, and the Political Officer has learnt a good deal about both tribes which he did not know before, and the information which he has gathered will not only be most useful to himself now, but likewise to his successor.

41. During my sojourn in the hills I became gradually agreeably aware of the fact that the Bebejiyas are, as a whole, very desirous of being on friendly terms with us, and I have almost begun to believe that they are a maligned race! There are, of course, bad characters among them, as there are amongst every nation under the sun, but I do not believe that the tribe, as a whole, is nearly as black as it has been painted.

For generations past the Assamese, and plains people generally, including Khamtis, Singphos, Dowanias, etc., etc., residing on the north bank of the Brahmaputra have learnt to look upon them as a bloodthirsty and dangerous race, and all works of reference on the tribes on our North-East Frontier speak of them as such, *vide* page 47 of Mackenzie's "History of the relations of the Government with the Hill Tribes," and page 328, Volume I of W. W. Hunter's "Statistical Account of Assam," and this opinion has been materially fostered by the Chulikattas themselves, who have hitherto succeeded in converting even me to their ways of thinking.

I do not, however, mean that the Chulikattas have ever purposely tried to mislead me regarding the character of the Bebejiyas. The fact is that during my incumbency here they (Chulikattas) have oftener than once suffered grievously for the sins of the Bebejiyas, and have not only been accused of committing outrages which we now know was the work of the Bebejiyas, but have likewise been blockaded and fined for the same, on the plea that Mishmis are all alike, and that even if their (Chulikatta) tribe were not the actual perpetrators of the outrage, they nevertheless connived at it, and could, if they wished, arrest and bring in the guilty party, etc., etc., hence they have never lost an opportunity of running the Bebejiyas down before me upon all and every possible occasion, and as there are no Bebejiyas who can speak Assamese, and I hitherto honestly believed them to be the deceitful and bloodthirsty devils everybody declared them to be, my dealings with them, during my long incumbency at Sadiya, have, naturally, not been as frequent or as cordial as they might have been.

Had they possessed intelligent chiefs, able to talk Assamese, such as the Chulikattas have, I might long ago have got at the true state of affairs, as I have recently, by the merest chance, done while halting in their country.

42. The fact is that both tribes are very quarrelsome, and given to taking life for very trivial differences (the Bebejiyas are, if anything, worse in this respect than the Chulikattas), and their creed is "an eye for an eye." Amongst themselves, therefore, no serious injury can be wiped out with honour until the injurer, or some relative, and it is immaterial whether it be a female or a child, has been killed, hence blood-feuds are very common among them.

Now, in years gone by we utilised local Khamtis, Dowanias, etc., as scouts, chiefly to keep these same Bebejiyas in check, and we supplied them with Government guns and ammunition, and at the time of enlistment we undoubtedly led these people to believe that we sympathised with them for the numerous troubles they and their people had suffered at the hands of the turbulent and bloodthirsty "Mishmis"; the consequence was that these same Khamti, etc., volunteers became more than ever imbued with the idea that the "Mishmis" were their natural enemies, and so they lost no opportunity of shooting them in cold blood when found in the jungles to the north of Sadiya in small parties; and when the "Mishmis" retaliated by slaying or walking off with their women and children, nothing was talked of but the dastardly conduct of the Mishmis, for no Khamti ever let on that they had given the "Mishmis" just cause for committing the outrage placed to their credit!

43. I made very careful enquiries while I was in the hills, and I am satisfied that shooting solitary and only half-armed Bebejiyas when found in the jungles north of Sadiya was very common when the Khamtis were lords of the soil at Sadiya, and that the practice continued for years after we took over the country, and only stopped shortly after I came here in 1882, when it became known that careful local enquiries would be instituted whenever any outrage occurred, and,

although I have traced every outrage mentioned at pages 50 and 51 of Mackenzie's North-East Frontier to Bebejiyas, I have satisfied myself that they were one and all committed to avenge old scores, just as the Mitaigaon outrage was (the true cause for this outrage is correctly given in paragraph 2 of my No. 35, dated the 9th June 1899) instead of each one being a wanton outrage, committed out of sheer devilry, as I and everyone else honestly believed them to be, and I am not ashamed to admit that I have hitherto somewhat misjudged the Bebejiyas.

44. Of course, when I became aware of these facts, I purposely avoided destroying any village, or damaging any property belonging to any clans who had not actually incurred our displeasure.

45. I propose now, as soon as possible next year (I doubt if I should succeed in doing so this year), to endeavour to induce some chiefs from each clan to come in and see me, and I will then explain matters to them somewhat as follows :

Your tribe has hitherto been looked upon as a wantonly bloodthirsty and cruel one, but I have recently become agreeably aware of the fact that the majority of you are friendly disposed to our Government, and desirous of continuing so, and view with fear and displeasure any attempt on the part of any member of your tribe to commit an outrage upon any of our subjects in the plains. I have consequently sent for you to request you to endeavour to induce any clan who have any grievance, real or imaginary, against any of our subjects, to lay the same before me in future, and to refrain from taking the law into their own hands, as they have hitherto done, and if in future your tribe fails to prevent any of its members committing outrages on our subjects, it must be prepared to see us again enter your hills, and if we do, we shall punish you all alike.

And I think, if this is done, we shall not again be troubled with outrages such as the one that occurred at Mitaigaon in May 1899, for although the several clans are not bound together by any common bond of union, and consequently cannot act collectively in preventing one or more members of any individual clan committing an outrage on our subjects, each clan is nevertheless under the influence of inter-tribal jealousy; hence, members of a clan would hesitate to incur our displeasure if they knew that by doing so they would likewise incur that of one or more clans already on bad terms with them, or desirous of our friendship.

46. The Bebejiyas are nothing like as large a tribe numerically as I have hitherto been led to suppose they are; I do not believe the whole community numbers more than 3,000 to 4,000 souls, if as many, and I do not think they could turn out more than 1,500, at the outside, fighting men.

They have only 31 villages, many of these are mere hamlets, containing 520 houses (*vide* Appendix A). Some of the chiefs' houses are over 300 feet long, with 8 or 10 rooms, or spaces partitioned off, and these undoubtedly contain a goodly number of men, women, and children, but the majority I saw were not more than 80 or 100 feet long, containing, I calculated, at the outside, from 8 to 10 souls (including women and children).

By multiplying the total number of houses by 8, therefore, we get a population of 4,000 odd only for the whole tribe, and in calculating 3 adult males for each house, their fighting strength would be but 1,500 men!

47. The Chulikatta villages are larger and much more numerous than the Bebejiyas, and I am now satisfied that they are numerically a much larger tribe than the Bebejiyas.

I am likewise satisfied that they have never been anything but well disposed to us, and I am glad to report that their one desire appears to be to continue on friendly terms with us.

They are very keen traders, and, as a large proportion of the tribe obtain all they require from our marts, it is to their interest to keep on friendly terms with us, and they suffer very seriously whenever a blockade is enforced against them.

When the Abors determined to try conclusions with us in 1894, it was given out that the Chulikattas had joined them, and I partially believed the rumour at the time; now, however, I do not do so. I believe the only Chulikattas who sympathised with the Abors at that time were those residing on the right bank of the Dibong, who are more like Abor slaves than members of an independent tribe.

48. The Bebejiya country proper consists of the valleys of the Ithuz and the Ithu rivers and their several tributaries, about 500, if as much, square miles of country all told, which is bounded as follows :

North and south, by the high mountains (some are nearly 10,000 feet) bordering in the rivers named; east, range of mountains separating them from the Digaro

country; west, on the left bank of the Ithun, the Ithu forms the western boundary, and on the right bank (of Ithun) Bebejiya land runs right down to Aiyu Mimi's village, which borders on the Dibong near Kalidoi's village.

The Chulikattas own all the land bordering on both banks of the Dibong (which they call the Tunga) and its numerous large tributaries, from Nizamghat right up the valley, as far as the mountains bordering on Thibet, which form the watershed of the Dibong, and they likewise still own a large slice of country on the right bank of the Dibong outside (that is, on the plains side) the gorge at Nizamghat.

Years ago they owned all the country in that quarter as far as the Sesser river, but the Abors, after numerous hard fights, ousted them, and drove them to the eastward of the Sesser. There are now only two or three hamlets of Chulikattas between that spot and the gorge at Nizamghat. In my opinion, the Chulikatta country is many times larger than the Bebejiyas'.

49. The tribal name of the Bebejiyas is Mithun, and the Chulikattas Midu. The Chulikattas say they sprang from a man called Tara and the Abors from Tara's own brother (by the same father and mother) called Tani (Tani means a human being in Abor); they thus claim relationship with the Abors. The Bebejiyas, they declare, are of Digaro origin, and they insist upon impressing upon me—as they have always hitherto done—that they are in no way related to the Bebejiyas, though the two tribes appear to me to be identically the same, for they live in exactly the same manner, their customs are similar, they are clothed alike; and their language is undoubtedly the same, and although a Chulikatta never marries a Digaro girl, and a Bebejiya does, the two tribes (Chulikattas and Bebejiyas) intermarry freely.

50. Relations between the two tribes are not of a very cordial nature at present, but this is chiefly owing to the fact that the Chulikattas are still smarting under the punishment inflicted on them by us for the faults of their brethren, the Bebejiyas (*vide* paragraph 39 *ante*).

Years ago Bebejiyas bordering on the Chulikattas were allowed to visit our Sadiya marts *via* Nizamghat, but none have been allowed through of late, not, in fact, since Aiyu Mimi's clan incurred our displeasure in 1893-94.

51. A good many Bebejiyas trade regularly at our marts at Sadiya, but those living high up the valley of the Ithun, west of Hunili, trade principally with the Digaros, by way of the Perlo pass (*vide* paragraph 4 *ante*), chiefly bartering wax, musk-deer pods, Mishmi coats, etc., for *Sikra daos* (Thibetan swords). They do not trade at all with the Abors (Padams). The Chulikattas residing to the southward of the Ithun trade regularly with the Abors (Padams), exchanging *Sikra daos* (Thibetan swords), also coloured loin-cloths, coats, Mishmi baskets [for carrying food, etc., in when on journey, called *phashak* by the Abors (Padams)], *dankis* [a large deep metal pan made in Thibet, and greatly fancied by Abors (Padams) and Mishmis. Every rich Padam has several of these, costing from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30 each, in his possession, and the *boiyops*, worn by all unmarried girls in Abor land, are likewise made out of them], etc., for *mithan* and pigs.

52. The Abors (Padams) are said to be ignorant of dyes, and so purchase dyed loin-cloths and coloured Mishmi coats freely from the Chulikattas. The baskets they purchase (from the Chulikattas) are said to be made of hill cane, and are consequently much stronger and better made than those the Abors have. The Chulikattas living to the north-east of the Ithun trade chiefly with the Thibetans at the frontier town of Alupo, which is a seven or eight days' journey only from Kalidoi's.

53. These people cultivate Mishmi *teeta* and take it to Thibet, where it is said to be in great demand. They likewise take musk-deer pods and dyed cloths, and all descriptions of skins, *viz.*, tiger, leopard, deer, bear, otter, etc., etc., and these, together with the Mishmi *teeta*, they barter for *dankis*, *Sikra daos*, cattle, guns, pistols, powder, caps, etc., etc.

54. Noga Chulikatta tells me that during the last two years the Thibetans are selling cap guns, as good as our own, to the Mishmis, and he declares he has seen several of these guns among the Chulikattas. He also tells me that the sale of guns, double as well as single barrel, and pistols by Thibetans to Chulikatta

is increasing yearly, and that a good single-barrel gun can be got in Thibet for a good sized bundle of Mishmi *teeta*! He tells me that the Abors and other tribes will, if this goes on, soon have lots of guns. I have asked Noga to try and bring me in a gun purchased from the Thibetans, as I should like to know where they come from. If all Noga tells me is true, this trade in fire-arms is a serious matter to us, and it behoves us, I think, to try and find out more about it.

55. Each tribe is divided into numerous clans or families (names of which will be found in Appendix B), but there do not appear to be any subdivisions among the clans.

Each tribe divided into numerous clans or families.

56. There are, of course, no recognised chiefs among either tribe. Each clan has a headman or two, but the office is not hereditary. They are merely chosen for their wealth, general wisdom, and oratorical acquirements, and their real position amongst similar men belonging to other clans, and even amongst the other members of their own clan, is *primus inter pares*; only some, however, exercise considerable influence, and use it for the good of the community, in settling petty disputes, etc.

No recognised chiefs amongst them.

57. Each clan has its own territorial village boundaries, and manages its own affairs, and, as jealousy is very prevalent among the different clans, broils, often ending in bloodshed, in which many a wretched woman or child loses a life, are common. While at Hunili I collected a few of the manners and customs of the Bebejiyas and Chulikattas, which will be found in Appendix B.

58. Unity amongst a people so constituted is, I need scarcely say, impossible. Such a thing as a council of Bebejiya clans meeting to discuss matters politic, with a view to acting as confederate states if they agreed, would, for the reasons given, be an impossibility, and still more impossible would it be for a council of Chulikattas and Bebejiyas to gather together for a similar purpose. I am of opinion, therefore, that we need never fear collusion between the two tribes, or even among the several clans in either tribe.

No unity possible among either tribe, therefore no fear of collusion.

59. Both tribes are exceedingly superstitious, and like the Abors, or Padams, each village or clan has its sorcerer (called *Igu* in Bebejiya and Chulikatta, *Miru* in Abor, and *Dondoi* in Assamese), who is gravely consulted when anything untoward happens in the village. These men wear fantastic articles of dress, and feign to possess miraculous powers.

Bebejiyas and Chulikattas very superstitious.

60. While at Hunili, a huge necklace, consisting of tiger, bear, pig, and monkey's teeth, and claws, together with a head band of plaited cane, studded with cowries, and with coloured feathers waving at the sides, was discovered in the adjoining jungles, and brought into camp, and these turned out to be the village sorcerer's charms, which had been hurriedly hidden when the people first fled into the jungles. Old Arati (*vide* paragraph 15 *ante*), hearing that they were in our possession, begged that they might be returned to him, as he himself had shot the animals whose teeth and claws adorned the necklace, and he had presented it to the village sorcerer, and his request was granted, to his extreme delight.

61. The sorcerer is, of course, supposed to know everything. If a woman is barren, for instance, he is sure to know the reason why, and the cure! and, in order to give some idea of their supposed miraculous power, or the gullibility of the average villager, I may mention the following story which was told me at Hunili by some Chulikattas. I had asked them what steps are generally taken by Bebejiyas and Chulikattas when a wife is accused of adultery, and they replied as follows:

"The sorcerer is called in, and, after hearing the case for the prosecution, he steps up to the accused woman and commences to examine her armpit, and if guilty (!), he draws therefrom a very tiny bird (called 'the thief' in Bebejiya), which he at once proceeds to put into his mouth and devour, and, this having been accomplished, the parties are informed that all will now be well!"

62. Neither the Bebejiyas nor the Chulikattas are as well-to-do as the Abors (Padams) or Passi-Minyongs, and this is due to their inordinate love of giving feasts! A Mishmi (Bebejiya or Chulikatta) is never happy, except when feasting his relatives and friends, the consequence is that as soon as he has acquired any money, he at once disburses it on *mithan* and pigs. Feasting is, in fact, a mania with them, and the heads of all animals slain during each successive

Bebejiyas and Chulikattas not as well-to-do as Abors, and reason why.

generation are carefully set apart in different rows along the passage inside their houses as mementos of the wealth and hospitality of past and present occupants. Of course, the wealthier a man is, the larger and oftener his feasts.

63. I am informed that a Chulikatta chief called Diyu, of the M'taiu clan, whose village lies high up the Dibong near the Thibetan frontier, has been known to kill 100 *mithan* at one feast! Notwithstanding these continual feasts, however, the people seem fairly well off, as they appear to possess numerous pigs and poultry, and have heaps of *bobosa* (a millet) and Indian-corn, their two staple foods.

64. Shortly after the Mitaigaon outrage, Chousa, Khamti chief, was in Sadiya, and, as he has great influence amongst the Digaros and knows them thoroughly well, I consulted him about the possibility of my being able to enlist Digaros as porters, in the event of an expedition against the Bebejiyas being sanctioned, and he promised to enquire and let me know. I also consulted Ageson and two other Digaro chiefs, who have worked on our Bomjur road for the past two years, about the same matter, and the upshot was that I succeeded in getting 80 odd Digaros as porters, who worked satisfactorily from Sadiya as far as Grambon's village. I should have got 300 or 400, only Colonel Molesworth refused to use them in the hills, and gave out that he mistrusted them, and when this got known, all but the 80 odd mentioned returned to their villages. In my opinion, they are first-rate coolies, though somewhat difficult to manage. I also collected 50 odd local Miris as porters, and these men likewise worked satisfactorily for some 28 days. They are not, however, what I call good porters, and are useless as carriers in a hilly country.

65. I had five Chulikattas, *viz.*, (1) Noga, son of Lako, deceased, (2) Ethakron, son of Yosa, deceased, (3) Bapa Pulu, (4) Turo, son of Kalidoi, deceased, (5) Anakron, slave of No. 1,—all residing on the low hills this side of the gorge of the Dibong—
 Services rendered by Chulikatta guides,
 —as guides and interpreters during the expedition, and they all worked exceedingly satisfactorily, and were always of the greatest use, not only to myself when collecting miscellaneous information about the tribes we were amongst, but to the survey and other officers of the force. They were likewise most useful in carrying letters to our rear, and they looked after the two captive children from the day they were recovered until their arrival in Sadiya, carrying the little boy from Hunili to Sadiya, as he was too small to walk. I have paid them at the rate of Rs. 25 per month each for the time they were with us, and I now solicit that they may be given a good Government gun each for self-protection, as they have incurred the displeasure of the Bebejiyas by acting as our guides, and they are afraid the latter may attack their villages and endeavour to shoot them and their relations for having helped us. If I succeed in getting the Bebejiya *gams* to come in, as I propose doing in paragraph 45 *ante*, I will tell them that these men must not be attacked and killed under pain of incurring our displeasure; but it would be well if in the meantime we gave them the guns I ask for, as the Bebejiyas would be less likely to attack them if they knew they had been armed by us. The Bebejiyas have numerous old scores against Noga (son of Lako, deceased) and his clan, for it was his people who killed Muki and Muti (*vide* paragraph 24 *ante*), and it was they likewise who avenged Lakai's murder at Dikrang in 1884!

66. Grambon, a Chulikatta chief, whose village lies at the foot of the low hills 13 miles north of our Bomjur outpost, and his relations, also rendered great assistance to the force while the road was being made between our Bomjur outpost and his village, and likewise while the path thence up to the Maiyu pass was being repaired, and after we had entered the Bebejiya country, and occupied Hunili, his two sons brought up our *dāk* on two occasions from camp 5. This man and his relations, therefore, have also incurred the displeasure of the Bebejiyas whom we punished, as they alleged that, but for him, we should not have known how to enter their country. Grambon has received numerous threats of vengeance. I solicit, therefore, that this man may also be given a Government gun for self-protection, also a present of Rs. 200, in recognition of his and his clan's services to the force for over six weeks. I may mention that this man's village lies at the very foot of the Maiyu pass, hence he and his people were compelled to help the force from the time they arrived at our Bomjur outpost until the pass had been reached, and during our long stay at camp 5 (only a mile or so from the village) a good deal of damage was done by coolies and others belonging to the force, for they stole large numbers of vegetables, and cut down numerous bamboos, etc. I have already in a separate letter asked that Rs. 150 may be sanctioned as compensation for these losses.

67. A short time before the expedition started, I received a copy of a letter, No. 1411 Misc.—7620 G., dated the 5th October 1899, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner to the address of the Deputy Commissioner, Dibrugarh, forwarding copies of the correspondence marginally noted, and in paragraph 2 thereof I was requested to take advantage of the forthcoming expedition to obtain specimens of the Mishmi language, such as are required by Dr. Grierson for his linguistic survey. I regret to say, however, that I was not able to comply with this request. I saw but few Bebejiyas during the time we were in their country, and the dealings which I had with those I did see and converse with were not consistent with my entering into a friendly discourse with them regarding their language.

68. I have already, in paragraph 30 *ante*, given my reasons for arresting the three Bebejiya chiefs mentioned therein (one of these, *viz.*, Ekhoma, escaped on the 4th February, while we were marching from Auonli to the Aiyi). The Chulikatta chiefs who acted as my guides told me that if I seized these men as hostages, their relatives would arrest and bring in one or more of the Mitaigaon raiders, and likewise the double-barrel gun which Ethanon persistently refused to give up while we were in the hills (*vide* paragraph 24 *ante*), and this turned out pretty correct, for on the day after their arrest the father of Chaka (one of the Mitaigaon raiders, *vide* paragraph 25 *ante*) was seized and brought to me; but I refused to take him, and said I wanted the culprits themselves, not their relatives. After this, enquiries were at once set on foot to find out where the real culprits were, and, though none have been seized to date, Malon's relatives have recovered the double-barrel gun (which Ethanon persistently refused to bring in while we were in the hills), and it was brought into Sadiya a few days ago, together with a relative of one of the other accused, but I again refused to accept any but the real culprits. This shows that efforts are still being made to comply with our orders, and I am sanguine enough to believe that if we detain the two hostages at Sadiya for a time, and there is ample evidence against them to warrant our doing so, we shall succeed in getting hold of one or more of the real culprits.

69. In conclusion, I wish to convey my best thanks to Lieutenant Colonel E. H. Molesworth for all the assistance he ungrudgingly gave me from start to finish.

APPENDIX A.

List of Bebejiya villages with approximate number of houses in each one, collected in January 1900 by F. J. NEEDHAM, Esq., C.I.E., Political Officer, Mishmi Expedition, while halting in the Bebejiya village of Hunili.

No.	Names of villages.		Names of clans.		Number of houses.	Remarks.
1	2		3		4	5
1	Hunili	...	Mison	...	14	All on left bank, east of the Ithun, east of Hunili.
2	Koni, offshoot of No. 1	...	Mison	...	7	
3	Pika	...	Mison	...	9	
4	Guangon	...	Malon	...	8	
5	Chaini	...	Mison	...	6	
6	Dengi	...	Mison	...	12	
7	Donyi	...	Mitiche	...	12	
8	Dopoiya	...	Mega	...	16	All on right bank of Ithun, east of Hunili.
9	Maini	...	Mega	...	6	
10	Mitakon	...	Miton	...	18	
11	Maiunli	...	Mega	...	10	
12	Sondon	...	Mega	...	40	
13	Tona	...	Miton	...	6	
14	Chiingbon	...	Mison	...	14	
15	Runli	...	Mega	...	14	
16	Konon	...	Mison	...	5	

APPENDIX A—continued.

List of Bebejiya villages with approximate number of houses in each one, collected in January 1900 by F. J. NEEDHAM, Esq., C.I.E., Political Officer, Mishmi Expedition, while halting in the Bebejiya village of Hunili.—contd.

No.	Names of villages.		Names of clans.	Number of houses.	Remarks.
1	2		3	4	5
17	Ehanli	...	M'pu	14	All on right bank of Ithun, below or north of Hunili.
18	Atom	...	Mega	20	
19	Ahondon	...	Mendon	6	
20	Anbupu	...	Maton	13	
21	Anruli	...	Maton	4	
22	Puinyi	...	M'dere	14	
23	Ebrani	...	Mega	24	
24	Adopoiya	...	Mili	24	
25	Kano	...	Mimi	20	
26	Enaiya Mimi	...	Mimi	20	
27	Thunli	...	Mimi	40	All on left bank of Ithun, below or west of Hunili.
28	Apali	...	Mison	10	
29	Abrangon	...	M'dere	28	
30	Dupon	...	Mimi	16	
31	Elanpu	...	M'dere	40	
32	Rangon	...	Mimi	30	

NOTE.—I had the very greatest difficulty in collecting the names of their villages with number of houses in each, and I do not feel certain that I have got the names of every Bebejiya village, or the exact number of houses in each one yet.

APPENDIX B.

A few Bebejiya manners and customs collected by F. J. NEEDHAM, Esq., C.I.E., Political Officer, Mishmi Expedition, while halting at Hunili in the Bebejiya Hills in January 1900.

When a man wishes to marry, he asks the girl's parents' consent, and makes them a few propitiatory presents. When consent has been obtained, and presents suitable to the bridegroom's means, in the shape of *Sikra daos*, *kanhis*, pigs, or what not, have been given to the parents, the villagers build a new house for the pair to live in, and the girl goes off and lives with her husband. The parents of the girl then give the bridegroom a few cheap presents in return for those received by them. There is no intermarrying amongst the several clans.

Marriage customs.

Polygamy is common among the men, who may have as many wives as they can afford.

Polygamy common.

Adultery is rare. Whenever a case occurs, the village sorcerer is called by the aggrieved party, and he proceeds to search the woman's armpits, and (if guilty, I suppose) finding a very tiny bird there, he proceeds to devour it, and pronounces that all will now be well. The aggrieved party then claims compensation from the adulterer in the shape of *mithan*, *dankis*, pig, etc., according to his means, and if not complied with, a blood-feud ensues. Barren women are at a discount. If a woman turns out barren, the village sorcerer is consulted, and he is alleged to know the reason why, and the cure!

Adultery rare.

When a grown-up person dies, the whole village does *gena* (taboo), not so if a child dies. The latter is buried at once without any ceremonies, but in the case of an adult the body is not interred until the third day. Until that time relatives sit round it, and cry, and if the weather is hot, fan the body. On the third day, the body, wrapped in the clothes usually worn by the deceased when alive, is put into a rough coffin hewn out of a tree and carefully lined with matting and leaves, and carried to the grave, which is generally three or four feet deep. After the abovementioned coffin has been put into the grave, two planks are put over it, thus, and these being covered with leaves and mats the hole is filled in. Money is rarely, food never, put into the grave with the body, but a man's spear, *daos*, etc., are generally buried with him. Sometimes other articles, such as extra clothes, etc., in a basket or a *danki* are put into the grave, and these may be subscribed for by the villagers for this purpose.

Funeral rites.



If a man dies an accidental death, he is buried near the spot where he died, though always a good distance from any frequented path, for the spirit of the dead is greatly feared. Graves are generally dug below the village.

Women are delivered in a squatting posture (that is, in the position in which all natives sit to eat smoke, or talk, etc.). There is no village *gena* after a child is born. The mother continues unclean for ten days, and then returns to her ordinary work.

Twins occur occasionally. There is a superstition that if a boy and a girl are born, the pair live; if twins are, however, of same sex, that is, two boys or two girls, one is almost sure to die.

The diseases most common are goitre, skin diseases, ophthalmia, stomach complaints, and fevers. On every occasion, the sorcerer is consulted, and he invariably recommends the propitiation of some malignant spirit by means of fowls, pigs, etc., etc.

Bebejiyas use *corydalis* plant (which grows wild in their country), and likewise Mishmi *teeta* (called *aron* by Bebejiyas) from Thibet for stomachache.

If a man is wounded by a poisoned arrow, the sorcerer is called in, and he proceeds to cut the wound open and suck out the poison, and after several incantations, the patient is left alone.

Wounds from poisoned arrows, etc., how treated.

R. K. S.

Report on the Bebejiya Mishmi Expedition, 1899-1900.

It is requested that any reply or future reference to this communication may quote its number, distinguishing letters, and date.

No. 231For. P.
1379

FROM

THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER
OF ASSAM,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

Shillong, the 17th April 1900.

SIR,

IN continuation of Mr. Monahan's letter No. 613For.—4598P., dated the 8th November 1899, and of previous correspondence on the subject of the outrage perpetrated by Bebejiya Mishmis at Mitaigaon in May 1899, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a letter from the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur, No. 2369G., dated the 30th March 1900, forwarding a very full and interesting report by Mr. F. J. Needham, C.I.E., Political Officer, Mishmi Expedition, on the result of the punitive operations which were undertaken by the Military authorities in the Mishmi Hills during last cold weather.

2. The primary object of the expedition was to arrest and punish the perpetrators of the Mitaigaon massacre of May 1899, when three unoffending Khamtis, British subjects, were ruthlessly murdered by a party of Bebejiya Mishmi raiders, and others were wounded; to recover the three children and three guns carried off; and also to punish the guilty Bebejiya *gams* who murdered three Military Police sepoy when they were on patrol near Bomjur outpost in November 1893. There were also many previous raids and murders committed by Bebejiyas on the British frontier for which no punishment had been inflicted on the marauders. The secondary object of the expedition was described by the Chief Commissioner in the following words:

Although the Bebejiya country is absolutely unexplored, it extends over a very limited area, and can easily be defined, and the Chief Commissioner considers that our troops should make what is known in North-Eastern frontier warfare as a demonstration or promenade among all the Bebejiya villages with a view, on the one hand, of acquiring, as far as possible, an accurate knowledge of the country and of the haunts and habits of the people, and, on the other, of impressing definitely on these savage marauders that they cannot raid on our frontier, or murder, rob, and carry off unoffending British subjects with impunity.

3. It was decided that the Military authorities should be entirely responsible for the conduct of the operations, and it does not fall within the Chief Commissioner's province to say anything regarding the expedition from a military point of view. There was no fighting, and practically no opposition; but the natural difficulties of the country were immense, and steep passes rising to 8,000 feet in elevation, dense forests, cold, snow, sleet, and rain were obstacles which prevented the advance of the troops and circumscribed the extent of the operations. Mr. Cotton may, however, be permitted to say that he had hoped that the force would have been able to stay for a somewhat longer period in the heart of the Bebejiya country, and that ampler opportunities would have presented themselves of improving our geographical and topographical knowledge. So far as he is aware, it has not been found possible to add very largely to our scientific knowledge of the North-Eastern frontier. Despite the energy of the officers and admirable spirit of the men, too much time was taken up in getting to the enemy's country. The expedition was hampered by its transport, and very little attempt was made to pierce the hills by flying columns, which are practically independent of transport. The Chief Commissioner deeply regrets the heavy losses attributed to cold and exposure among the members of the Khasia coolie corps.

4. At the same time Mr. Cotton entertains no doubt that the objects with which the expedition was undertaken have been substantially accomplished. It was not possible to capture the murderers, who fled into the forest-clad hills on the approach of our troops. But the captives and guns have been recovered, and the principal offenders have been severely punished by the occupation and destruction of their villages. Our previous ignorance of the Bebejiya country and of the people who inhabit it was profound. This ignorance has now been dispelled, and Mr. Needham, with a candour which does him credit, is not ashamed to confess that his information was at fault, and that his views have undergone considerable modification. The darkness which lay over the Mishmi country has been dissipated. The home of the Bebejiyas is no longer a *terra incognita*, which had never been visited by a European. The Bebejiyas, who had hitherto been described as a fierce race of cannibals, a very savage, blood-thirsty, and dangerous race, are now known to be no better nor worse than their neighbours. They are undoubtedly responsible for the outrages with which they have been charged, but these outrages do not appear to have been perpetrated from mere wantonness or devilry as was supposed, but to be due to the ordinary blood feuds which always prevail among these frontier tribes. They have now learnt the strength of the British power; they know that if they commit murder and plunder within the area of British political control, they will be punished, and the Chief Commissioner does not hesitate to express his belief that there will now be peace on a frontier where there has hitherto been continual raiding. It may be confidently expected that for a generation at least quiet will be restored.

5. It is understood that a considerable tract of hitherto-unknown country has been mapped out by the survey party, and that much more could have been done if the weather had been more propitious.

6. It will be observed from Mr. Needham's report that he arrested three Bebejiya *gams* or headmen while in their country, and that, although one of these men effected his escape, the other two, *viz.*, Pongon M'dere of Elanpu, who purchased the boy captive from the marauders at Mitaigaon, and Malon Mimi of Rangon, who was found to be in possession of one of the guns carried off from Mitaigaon, are still in confinement at Sadiya. It is proposed to detain them there as hostages in the expectation that their detention will lead to the surrender of the actual perpetrators of the Mitaigaon massacre. The Chief Commissioner cannot, however, approve of this course. He thinks that their arrest was justified, and he deems it possible that their indefinite detention might lead to the result contemplated. But he does not wish them to be kept in confinement any longer. He considers that the operations against the Bebejiya Mishmis have closed, and that the time has passed for taking any further steps for the punishment of the offenders. With the return of the troops, we should present, as it were, a clean slate in our political relations on this frontier. The Chief Commissioner has, therefore, instructed Mr. Needham to allow these hostages to go back to their country.

7. Mr. Needham brings to notice in paragraphs 65 and 66 of his report the services of five Chulikatta Mishmis who acted as guides and interpreters during the expedition, and of Grambon, a Chulikatta chief, who afforded great assistance to the force. He points out that these men have incurred the displeasure of the Bebejiyas whom we have punished, and that they are in need of our protection for having helped us. The Chief Commissioner has authorised the presentation to each of them of a muzzle-loading Government gun, and of a further present of Rs. 200 to Grambon.

8. In conclusion, the Chief Commissioner has only to express his obligations to Brigadier-General C. R. Macgregor, C.B., D.S.O., for the prompt and valuable advice and assistance he has given to the civil authorities, and to Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Molesworth, in command of the expedition, and to all the officers under his command for the cordial manner in which they co-operated with Mr. Needham at all stages of the operations. Mr. Needham has submitted an excellent report, and has maintained the high reputation he has earned for himself as a Political Officer on this frontier.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

L. J. KERSHAW,

Offg. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

MEMO. No. $\frac{231}{1380}$ For P.

Shillong, the 17th April 1900.

COPY, with enclosures, forwarded to the General Officer Commanding Assam District for information.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

A. PLAYFAIR,

for Offg. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

MEMO. No. $\frac{231}{1381}$ For P.

Shillong, the 17th April 1900.

COPY, with spare copy of enclosures, forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur, for information and guidance, with reference to his letter No. 2369G., dated the 30th March 1900. Attention is invited to paragraph 6 regarding the release of the hostages, and action should be taken accordingly.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

A. PLAYFAIR,

for Offg. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

No. 55.

No. 231For.—1538-43P., dated Shillong, the 24th April 1900.

Memo. by—The Offg. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Copy of letter No. 231For.—1379P., dated the 17th April 1900, to the Foreign Department, and enclosures, forwarded to the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, the Inspector General of Police, Assam, the Principal Medical Officer and Sanitary Commissioner, Assam, and the Deputy Commissioners, Nowgong, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and Naga Hills, for information.

No. 56.

No. 231For.—1544P., dated Shillong, the 24th April 1900.

From—The Offg. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

To—The Quartermaster General in India.

I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, a copy of Mr. Needham's report on the recent expedition against the Bebejiya Mishmis, together with a copy of the Chief Commissioner's forwarding letter to the Government of India, in the Foreign Department, No. 231For.—1379P., dated the 17th April 1900.

No. 57.

No. 231For.—1545P., dated Shillong, the 24th April 1900.

Memo. by—The Offg. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Copy of letter No. 231For.—1379P., dated the 17th April 1900, to the Government of India, in the Foreign Department, and enclosures, forwarded to F. J. Needham, Esq., C.I.E., Political Officer in charge of the Bebejiya Mishmi Expedition, for information.

No. 58.

Telegram No. 984E.B., dated 8th May 1900.

From—Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla,

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Assam, Shillong.

Your letter No. 231For.—1379P., dated April 17th, forwarding report on the Bebejiya Mishmi expedition. Please telegraph the cost of the expedition chargeable to Civil.

No. 59.

Telegram No. 1892P., dated 10th May 1900.

From—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Assam, Shillong,

To—Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla.

Your 984E.B., dated 8th. Comptroller reports that up to date Rs. 6,022 have been debited of Civil for cost of Mishmi expedition. This does not include expenditure incurred by Public Works on roads and by Police budget on renewal of Military Police sepoy's outfit.

No. 60.

No. 311G., dated Dibrugarh, the 16th May 1900.

From—W. J. REID, Esq., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur,

To—The Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

With reference to your memorandum No. 231For.—1381P., dated the 17th April 1900, forwarding copy of your letter to the Government of India, Foreign Department, on the subject of the outrage perpetrated by Bebejiya Mishmis at Metaigaon in May 1899, I have the honour to inform you that the two Bebejiya hostages have been released.