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HISTORY *of the* MONGOLS

FROM THE 9th TO THE 19th CENTURY.

PART II.

THE SO-CALLED TARTARS OF RUSSIA
AND CENTRAL ASIA.

DIVISION II.

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CHAPTER VIII.

THE WHITE HORDE AND THE KIRGHIZ KAZAKS.

BORRAK KHAN.

WE have now traced out the various lines of princes who ruled at Astrakhan, Kazan, Kasimof, and in the Krim until their final overthrow and absorption by Russia, and we must turn once more to the White Horde, which held sway in the eastern parts of the Kipchak.

We traced its history down to the death of Borrak Khan in the year 831 (*i.e.*, 1427-8). He was, as I have shown,* a constant candidate for the throne of Serai, and not only had a considerable struggle for it with Ulugh Muhammed, but he also strove to dispossess the Timurids of Signak, the ancient capital of his horde, and which Timur had annexed. On his death in 831 his children were apparently very young; and Abulkhair Khan, of the house of Sheiban, acquired supreme authority in the country east of the Yemba.†

GIRAI KHAN AND JANIBEG KHAN.

Borrak Khan, it would seem, left two sons called Girai and Janibeg, who apparently shared their father's throne. Of these Girai was probably the elder, since his son succeeded Janibeg. Girai is not mentioned by Abulghazi, who calls his brother Janibeg, "Abusaid surnamed Janibeg Khan."‡ They are both mentioned in the *Tarikhi Rashidi* of Haidar and in the *Sheibaneh Nameh*. The latter work expressly calls Janibeg the son of Borrak, the brother of Girai.§ We do not hear of them until the year 1451, when we are told by Haidar that Abulkhair, the representative of the house of Sheiban|| had gained great authority in the Kipchak, and that Janibeg and Girai fled from him, and sought refuge in Mongolistan (*i.e.*, the country of Issikul and Kashgar) with Issanbugha, who was Khan there. By the latter they were well received and given the district of Chu (*i.e.*, of the river Chu), Bashi Kuzi (?), which lies on the western limit of Mongolistan. There, we are told, they enjoyed themselves in quiet until Abulkhair's death, which took place in 1469. Many then repaired to Girai and Janibeg, so that their number increased to 200,000 persons, and they got the name of Uzbeg *Kazaks*. This name of Kazaks they got no

* *Ante*, chapter v.

† See next chapter.

‡ *Op. cit.*, 188.

§ *Vel. Zern.*, 263.

|| See next chapter.

doubt, as I have shown in the introduction, from their being fugitives *par excellence*. This was the beginning then of the history of the Kazaks, who are called improperly Kirghiz Kazaks by most writers.

The sons of Abulkhair carried on the strife with Girai and Janibeg Khan, and when Mahmud Khan of Mongolistan in 893 hej. (*i.e.*, 1488) granted Turkestan to Sheibani, the grandson of Abulkhair, we are told he incurred the enmity of Girai and Janibeg. "Sheibani was their enemy," they said, "and why was he sent to be in collision with them?"* In consequence of this two battles took place between Mahmud Khan and the brothers, and the former, who had made himself unpopular among the amirs by his arbitrary ways, was defeated. Ahmed Khan, the brother of Mahmud, subsequently repaired this misfortune, and defeated the Kazaks three times.† We do not again read of either Girai or Janibeg, nor do we know when either of them died. M. Veliaminof Zernoff‡ has shown how Von Hammer was led astray in regard to the genealogy of Janibeg, and what confusion has been created by the author of the Golden Horde identifying him with Seyid Ahmed, who died at Kovno in Lithuania, and whose history has already occupied us.§

BERENDUK KHAN.

Haidar tells us that both Girai and Janibeg left many sons. Girai, it would seem, was succeeded by his son Berenduk, who became the over-chief of the Kazaks, and we are told that the famous Kasim Khan, son of Janibeg, was in all respects submissive to him, as his father before him had been.¶ During his reign the Kazaks and Sheibanids or Uzbegs continued their former strife. We are told by Khuandemir that when at Signak on one occasion an envoy went to Sheibani, the great chief of the Uzbegs, from Musa, the leader of the Nogais, offering him the throne of Desht Kipchak if he would go there. Sheibani accordingly went, and was well received by Musa. Meanwhile Berenduk Khan, who was the real ruler of the country, set out with a large army against him. Sheibani won the victory and Berenduk fled, but Musa refused to fulfil his promise on the ground that his amirs were not agreeable.¶¶ Khuandemir also reports that about the year 1494 Sheibani and his brother Mahmud, having subdued all Turkestan, Berenduk Khan appeared at Sabran, and at the request of the amir Muhammed Terkhan the people of the town seized Mahmud and handed him over to Kasim. The latter sent him with an escort to Suzak, but he escaped on the way, and joined his brother at Otrar. Berenduk was not long in beleaguering that town, and had several fierce fights with its garrison, but at length agreed to a peace and returned home. Presently the Kazaks allied themselves with the Khan of Mongolistan, and again made a demon-

* Tar, Rash.

† Id.

‡ ii. 263-268.

§ *Ante*, 292, &c.

¶ Tar, Rash.

¶¶ Vel. Zern., ii. 242.

stration against Otrar, from which they once more retired. Shahibeg then marched against the Kazaks, whose chief camp was in the Ala tagh mountains (probably Ala Tau near Vernoe). Peace was again made between them, and Berenduk made Sheibani's son Muhammed Timur Sultan his brother-in-law.

In the winter of 912 (*i.e.*, 1507) we again find the Kazaks molesting Maveran-nahr,* and Sheibani marching against them.† Two years later, namely, in 1509, he again went against them. We are told that at this time, although Berenduk Khan was the *de jure* ruler of Kipchak, that all the authority was virtually in the hands of Kasim, and that the Kazaks could muster a force of two hundred thousand men. Sheibani took up his winter quarters at Kuruk, whence he sent a force into the enemy's country, but on hearing a report that Kasim Khan was coming, this division retired, and created quite a panic in Sheibani's army, and he beat the drum for retreat. "Nothing was attended to," says Haidar. The army, broken and scattered, reached Samarkand in the end of the winter, whence Sheibani withdrew to Khorasan. As I have said, nothing was left to Berenduk but the semblance of authority, and this was now to end, for we read in the Tarikhi Rashidi that he was at length expelled and retired to Samarkand, where he died in exile.‡

KASIM KHAN.

The throne of the Kazaks now passed to the family of Janibeg Khan. The latter, according to Abulghazi, had nine sons, Iranchi or Irajji, Mahmud, Kasim, Itik or Aitek (perhaps rightly Aibek), Janish, Kanbar, Tanish (called Benish by Haidar), Uziak, and Jauk, Yadik, or Jadik.§ Iranchi is called Iranji Khan on one occasion by Khuandemir, who names him as the ruler of Sabran, where he punished Sheibani,|| but it would seem from Haidar's positive statement and other facts, that Berenduk was in fact succeeded by Kasim, who had long previously been the real ruler of the Desht. We are told that during Berenduk's reign he would not live near him, for if he should not pay him due regard he would resent it, and if he did he could not in his heart submit to him. Berenduk then lived at Seraichuk (? Sighnak) and Kainu on the borders of Mongolistan. Haidar says he subdued the whole of Desht Kipchak, and his army was more than a thousand thousand in number. After Juchi Khan none was ever more powerful in that yurt than he.¶ The Turkish biographer of Uraz Makhmet tells us the mother of Kasim was Jaghun Berkin, and that he ruled for some time in his father's ulus.** The most famous of Kasim Khan's brothers was Yadik, who is called Uzbek in Erskine's translation of the Tarikhi Rashidi, but Yadik by Vel. Zernof in his extracts from that work. He is no doubt the "Uzbek Sultan," one of the sultans of the Kazaks mentioned

* *Id.*, 251, 252. † Tar. Rash. ‡ *Id.* § Op. cit., 188. Vel. Zern., ii. 267, 268.
¶ Vel. Zern., ii. 240. ¶ Tar. Rash. ** Vel. Zern., ii. 125.

by Baber, and who Erskine says in a note was called Awik Sultan in the Persian text.* He married Sultan Nigar Khanum, the fourth daughter of Yunis Khan of Mongolistan, the widow of Mahmud Murza, son of Sultan Abusaid,† who after his death married his brother Kasim,‡ which shows the latter outlived him. The biographer of Uraz Makhmet tells us he was killed with one of his sons at Ilianli Tuk, fighting against the Nogai Sheikh Murza. He was buried at Bakirghan Ata, in the district of Urgenj or Khiva.§ This place is mentioned by Abulghazi, and was the burial place of a famous Mussulman saint named Suliman Hakim.|| Kanbar, another son of Janibeg, was all his life in the service of Kasim Khan, and was constantly in the front of the army.¶ But to return to Kasim.

We are told that in the year 918 (*i.e.*, 1512), when the Uzbegs had acquired great influence in Maverunneh, news arrived of the approach of Kasim Khan. The latter marching from his quarters near Mongolistan went to Tarez, the keys of Sairam were given up to him by Ketch Beg, its governor, and thence he went on to Tashkend, but again retired. The Khan Sultan Said went after him and overtook him at the river Chu. Kasim was then past sixty and going on towards seventy, and did not go to meet the Khan, but sent some of his sultans, such as Janish Khan, Benish Khan, &c., to the number of thirty or forty, with orders to bend the knee to the Khan. Of this number Janish Khan and Benish Khan were very aged. When they kneeled the Khan rose, and he remained seated while the others did obeisance. Kasim treated the Khan with a courtesy the latter never forgot, and he always described him as a man of worth.

After they had met he approached the Khan and said, "I am a man of the desert. Here we have neither form nor ceremony in our friendship. Our only valuable property is our horse; our best food is its flesh, our best drink its milk and what is made of it. In my country there is neither palace nor garden. My great recreation is to inspect my herds. Let us go and pass an hour in looking at them." They accordingly went. He then showed the Khan two horses which he said were worth all the herd besides. The Khan assented. "We people of the desert depend for our lives on our horses. These are my choicest ones. You are an incomparable guest. Do me the favour of choosing which you like and leave me the other." He at the same time pointed out the good points of each. The Khan chose one, which he called Oghlan Turuk, and surely, says Haidar, such a horse was never seen. With it he joined a number of other horses and offered them to the Khan with a cup of kumiz, saying, "This is the way we greet our guests, oblige me by drinking." The Khan had previously renounced all intoxicating drinks, and replied, "I have foresworn such things as this, how can I

* Erskine's Baber, 13. Note, 4.
§ Vel. Zernof, ii. 125.

† Baber, 13.
|| *Id.*, 127.

‡ Tar. Rash.
¶ *Id.*, 125.