



19  
THROUGH CENTRAL ASIA

WITH A MAP AND APPENDIX ON THE

*DIPLOMACY AND DELIMITATION OF THE  
RUSSO-AFGHAN FRONTIER*

BY

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AUTHOR OF "THROUGH SIBERIA" AND "RUSSIAN CENTRAL ASIA, INCLUDING KULDJA, BOKHARA  
KHIVA AND MERV"

*WITH SEVENTY-FOUR ILLUSTRATIONS*

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RUSSO-ASIAN FRONTIER

HENRY LANSDELL, D.D.

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## PREFACE.

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THE recent settlement of the Russo-Afghan Frontier question has suggested the present as a suitable time to meet a wish that has been expressed for a popular edition of my larger work on "Russian Central Asia, including Kuldja, Bokhara, Khiva, and Merv." It suggested also the desirability of adding an Appendix, showing the course of events and diplomatic correspondence which led to the appointment of the Afghan Boundary Commission, and of giving a sketch of the manner in which the delimitation had been performed. Upon inquiry at the libraries of the Royal Geographical Society and at the India Office for a compendium on the subject, I was told that no such summary existed. I have endeavoured, therefore, to make one from the Blue Books at the India Office, and from letters supplied, by officers on the Commission, to the *Times* of London and the *Pioneer of India*, some of the latter of which, up to the return of the major portion of the Indian escort, have appeared in "Travels with the Afghan Boundary Commission," by Lieut. A. C. Yate.

In condensing material and making extracts from the Blue Books on Central Asian Correspondence from 1872, I have been careful frequently to give dates or other clues whereby those who wish to examine matters more minutely can readily refer to the sources quoted; and I would take this opportunity to thank the officials at the India Office for their courtesy and readiness to afford me assistance.

The student and specialist who may desire further information concerning Central Asia generally, and not merely the ground over which I travelled, I venture to refer to my larger work of 1,500 pages, which gives 4,300 species of fauna and flora in about twenty lists with introductions, adds a bibliography of 700 titles, and treats more or less fully of the geography, economy and administration, ethnology, antiquities, history, meteorology, geology, zoology, and botany of all parts of Russian Turkistan, Kuldja, Bokhara, Khiva, and Turkmenia, down to the frontier of Afghanistan.

The present work is chiefly a personal narrative, many whole chapters, and most of the notes, of the large edition being omitted, except such as refer to patriarchal and Persian customs, which have been appreciated as throwing light upon Biblical ethnography.

Subsequently to the sheets being printed, or nearly so, my attention was called to a book entitled "In Russian and French Prisons," by P. Kropotkine, wherein my name figures as "a Foreigner on Russian Prisons," and my testimony is called in question. On reading the book I found that its chapters were for the most part reprints of articles which have appeared in the periodical press. They were before me, I believe, when I published, two years since, my chapter, "Do we know the Truth about Siberian Prisons?" but to this the author has not alluded in his recently published pages, so that I have merely to refer the reader to Chapters xx.—xxii. for my opinion on such prisons as I have visited throughout Russia.

THE GROVE, BLACKHEATH, LONDON, S.E.  
30th September, 1887.

H. L.

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\* \* \* Most of these have been engraved from the Author's photographs, and have appeared in the pages of the "Graphic," "Leisure Hour," and "Sunday at Home."