LECTURES.

PROF. SCHLAGINTWEIT ON TURKISTAN.

The subject of the fifth lecture of Prof. Schlagintweit, on Tuesday, was "A Trip to Turkistan." The preparations for this perilous expedition were necessarily of a very complicated character. The brothers S. communicated their decision to visit Turkistan to their trusted companion and friend Mani, upon whom the task devolved to find a reliable guide. While Mani was thus occupied, the brothers S. made many excursions into the surrounding country. They visited, among others, the Convent Himis, where they found, at a hight of 12,324 feet, majestic pepiars. The convent is surrounded by an iron fence, which is hollow, and contains the ubiquitous prayer-cylinders to be set in motion by the passers-by. The interior contains masks which are used for theatrical purposes to represent the fight going on between the good and evil gods, and in which the good angels generally carry the day. On their return they found that Mani had succeeded in finding a guide, Mohammed Amin. They received him in the depth of night, and while M. Amin swore on the Koran to guide them faithfully into Turkistan, our travelers, in return, swore to give him a large amount of gold for his services. These preliminaries having been arranged, Amin took his departure, so as to avoid all suspicion, while the brothers arranged the details for the perilous undertaking. At last, on the 24th July, they left Leh with 30 servants, 20 horses, 50 carriers, and their honorary guard. If the Governor even had entertained a suspicion of their intent to cross into Turkistan, he was disarmed now, when so openly, and with so large a caravan, they took their departure, and he wished them, no doubt in all sincerity, a happy voyage. They traveled northward, and reached after two days the Leaohe Pass, 17,910 feet high, which separates the Indus from the Shoyok, from which they entered the Nubra Valley, celebrated for its beautiful apricots. All the necessaries of life were found here in abundance, only that a chicken cost at that time more than a sheep, owing to the fact that chickens were then only introduced there. Prof. S. here rapidly reviewed the aspect of the valley, with its caravans as they cross here from Turkistan, the road strewn with the skeletons of animals which died from exhaustion on the roadside. Glaciers are here, more remarkable than any found in Europe, although their presence was not even suspected prior to 1852. The Baltora glacier is 36 miles, and the Bepho 44 miles, long. Arrived at the summit of the Pass, they told their men that they wanted to stay here for several days. While some, the Professor said, might consider their conduct here as cruel, they had to resort to it, in order to carry out their plan to visit Turkistan. Here in this terribly cold region, where the tea was cold before it reached the cup poured in from the boiling kettle, where each arm full of wood had to be carried up 2,000 feet—here, at the hight of 20,120 feet, their men became sick and disgusted; and, when on the third day, M. Amin, according to arrangement, passed that way and offered his services, the servants not in the secret and the honorary guard were glad to avail themselves of the opportunity to return. The travelers promised soon to meet them in the valley below. But the servants had hardly left when they rapidly changed their clothing, shaved their heads, sewed gold pieces into their dresses, so as to have money with them in case they should be discovered and sold into slavery, and went with nineteen horses, fifteen sheep, and eight companions from the latter pass to the plateau of the Kora Korum. On their way to Turkistan they passed over Dapsong, the highest plateau in the world, (17,800 feet high), the summit of which, 28,273 feet, is the next highest mountain in the world. Prof. S. described at some length the snow line, and explained with great clearness the remarkable fact of the snowline being higher on the Southern than on the Northern part of the mountains, which in the Kora Korum begins at 18,600 feet. When at last they reached the pass of Kora Korum, 18,345 feet high, which forms the boundary line between Thibet and Turkistan, and never yet crossed by a European, Prof. S. expressed the pride and joy mingled as these emotions were with hope and fear, on that to him ever memorable 4th of August, 1856. The hardships they endured on their way to Yorkara and before they reached Kiuck Kiyel, where they rested for several days before going into Turkistan proper, seem to have been almost beyond endurance. The Sahara, Prof. S. said was a garden compared with the region they had to traverse. Next Tuesday Prof. S. will relate his experience in Turkistan, with which lecture his series will be closed.

DR. BOYNTON ON THE PRESENT ORDER OF ANIMALS.

Dr. John Boynton lectured on the Present Order of Animals at the Friends' Meeting House on Twentieth-st., near Third-ave., on Tuesday evening, for the Friends' Mission School. The lecture room was nearly filled with an intelligent audience. The speaker commencing with a brief history of the earth, as shown by geology, proceeded to illustrate by stereoscopic views his remarks on the various ages the earth has passed through since the beginning. The lecturer then took up the lower order of animals, and explained their various peculiarities and structures until he came to man. A view showing the actual process of fossilization as it takes place in nature was thrown upon the screen, amid raptures applause from the audience.

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