

HISTORY *of the* MONGOLS

FROM THE 9th TO THE 19th CENTURY.

PART II.

THE SO-CALLED TARTARS OF RUSSIA
AND CENTRAL ASIA.

DIVISION II.

BY

HENRY H. HOWORTH, F.S.A.

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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 Uzbek *Kazaks*. This name of *Kazaks* they got no

* *Ante*, chapter v.

See next chapter.

1 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 Zernof‡ 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.

§ *Anst.*, 292, &c.

|| Tar. Rash.

¶ Vel. Zern., ii. 242.