

in Oxfordshire.¹ The latter I have reason to believe were 'travellers' rather than Gypsies and guilty of burglary or shop-lifting, not of highway robbery. But of the former I have unfortunately been unable to find any further details.

The one remaining case is a little more informative, as Mary Pratt, who was stopped on the highway at Burstall on Nov. 27, 1808, by a man and woman 'who from their appearance were gypsies,' described the man as middle-aged, with a black complexion and 'long black hair loose upon his shoulders.' He wore an old, long, brown greatcoat with three capes, a plaid handkerchief round his neck and grey stockings. The woman was elderly with long brown hair loose; and she had a handkerchief upon her head with a man's hat, and a brown cloak with a large hood. The man presented a pistol and robbed her of two pound notes and some clothes.² Their description certainly suggests Gypsies; but I have not been able to find their names.

IV.—A PERSIAN GYPSY VOCABULARY

By Dr. A. WIRTH

AT Sultanalad in North-west Persia I met a wandering tribe of Gypsies, and took from their lips the following words, which, I dare say, offer some peculiarities. Unfortunately I cannot state what trade the Gypsies were chiefly occupied with.

[In the vocabulary which follows the value of the letters is that which they have in the German alphabet, the three additional letters *č*, *š*, *š* being equivalent to English 'ch', 'j', and 'sh.' In the notes enclosed in square brackets, for which Dr. Wirth is not responsible, S1 and S2 refer to words taken from the first and second Persian Gypsy vocabularies of Major Sykes, published in the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, vols. 32, pp. 344-352, and 36, pp. 302-11, and I. to Ivanow's article in the *Journal and Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, N.S., ix. pp. 439-455. Other oriental Gypsy vocabularies referred to are Ouseley's, from his *Travels in Various Countries*, and Miss Everest's, both printed in the *J.G.L.S.*, O.S. ii. 221-7; Gobineau's, from his 'Persische Studien' (*Zeitschrift der Deutschen morgenländischen*

Gesellschaft, xi. pp. 689-99; and Macalister's Nuri vocabulary. 'P.', 'Ar.', and 'T.' are used as abbreviations for 'Persian,' 'Arabic,' and 'Turkish.'

In support of some of the suggestions made it may be as well to call attention to Longworth Dames' analysis of Major Sykes' first vocabulary (*l.c.*, p. 351), where it is shown that the Persian Gypsies use disguised forms of words, sometimes transposing the letters as in *laband* for Persian 'baland,' and *nāch* for 'chum'; sometimes making wilful alterations, e.g. *hāt-ki* for 'bāzū,' and *lanār* for 'panir.' He mentions the existence of similar jargons among the Changars and Dons; and Major Ranking has pointed out disguised forms of Indian words in a vocabulary he collected from the Natts.¹ Transposition of letters, at any rate, seems to occur in Persian dialects: e.g. 'māk' for 'gum,' and 'nūmār' for 'munār.'²—[En.]

The numerals are:—

- 1, *jāti* [*yak-hāt*, S2; *yehat*, Gobineau; P. yak].
- 2, *doat* [*do-hāt*, S2; *douhat*, Gobineau; P. du].
- 3, *saot* [*sik-hāt*, S2; *sehhat*, Gobineau; P. sih].
- 4, *čorāt* [*chār-hāt*, S2; *tscharhat*, Gobineau; P. pahār, chār].
- 5, *pānat* [*panj-hat*, S2; *penschhat*, Gobineau; P. panj].
- 6, *šāš* [P. sas].
- 7, *haft* [P. haft].
- 8, *haš* [P. hašt].
- 9, *nuik* [P. nuh].
- 10, *de* [P. deh].

In this series there are of course many Persian roots. I give now the vocabulary, which is, I own, a little topsy-turvy.

VOCABULARY

- pirghad*, old (P. pīr). [*pīrīftū*, *pīr-vāt*, S2; *pīrevot*, I.]
joada, young. [*jūdar*, *jūda*, child, S1; *jūdāh*, child, *jūdū*, boy, S2.]
kūhti, mountain (P. kūh).
vadi, way. [Ar. wādī = valley—valleys being the natural place for roads in a mountainous country.]
vilābi, valley.

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mijo evil, sea (or 'lake'?). [*myonaw*, water, I., who compares P. 'miān-i-āb' which in Qainat dialect is 'minow'.]

daḡh tagal, earth.

lara, ground (lar in old Irish = earth, in old German = place, in Basque lur = earth; Roman laros). [Ar. al-arz, 'the earth,' seems more likely.]

mevel, sweet.

rotoši, sour. [P. turuš disguised.]

selekoba, cold. [soylak, silaki, I. The beginning appears to be Romani.]

čatid, warm. [Possibly P. jalid, 'ice,' misunderstood.]

merək, man. [mériš, S1; mēruz, S2. Possibly a disguised form of P. mard.]

jewel, woman. [javīd, S2; jewīt, I.; djévid, Gobineau; jivi, Ouseley; jūčr, Macalister.]

brank, father. [bahāng, bāhang, bang, S2.]

mo brenk, mother. [With the beginning cf. mōqis, māghis, I. and Mahallāti mō, 'mother,'¹ which suggests that *mo brank* really means 'mother and father'.]

potur, son (Indian putra). [pūtrē, Macalister.]

novək, fire (Armenian zovək, day). [narək, S1, 2, where it is derived from Ar. nar. It occurs later in the sense of 'lightning,' which suggests that Ar. būraq may have influenced the form.]

dār, daughter. [dārək, S2; dārī, Macalister: cf. Mahallāti dīt.²]

rebaun, friend, brother. [Perhaps a metathesized form of S2's *burun* brother. Cf. Burton's *blairu* and Mahallāti berā, birō.³]

keš, winter. [T. qīs.]

omrat, day. [Cf. I.'s *amrat*, *amrōt*, to-night, and Persian dialect forms like *inrā*, 'to-day'⁴ for *in + rāz*, 'this day'.]

ruat, night. [rōt, rāt, I.; ārt, Macalister.]

skulab, morning. [sakūt, S1; sekōl, I.]

pīna, white. [sufīanu, S1, 2; sapīnā, S2; sefīnūk, I., which suggests alteration of P. safid, sapīd: but cf. also Macalister's *pnérē*.]

sulo, black (sutra, Engl. sooty). [sūtā, S1; sūteh, S2; sūle, *sulew*,

I. Cf. perhaps Ar. aswad from the root 'sud'.]⁵
lejet, green.

abi, *mahi*, blue (Kurdish mani). [Cf. P. ābi, 'light blue,' and T. mā'i, māvi.]

mermes, red. [kirmiz, S2. P. qirmiz disguised.]

larā, yellow. [P. zardi disguised. Cf. Macalister's *zērdā*.]

leto, gold. [lātā, S1. Perhaps P. tila metathesized; but cf. I.'s *loko*, money.]

sim, zinc?, brass. [P. sim, 'silver'.]

damer, iron (T. temir).

mulla, lead. [Surprisingly like the European Romani word; but, as that is derived from Greek μόλυβος, the word requires support.]

oropu, silver. [*urp*, *ourp*, Ouseley; *urp*, Everest; *ūrpp*, Macalister. Romani.]

rabil, powder. [Perhaps Ar. turāb metathesized.]

tirna, arrow. [P. tir.]

malchuan, shield. [T. qalqan disguised.]

lot, spaniel.

kati, spear. [kāti, S2.]

loadin, bird. [? Cf. *lūgūndeni* (?), egg, I.]

chamurri, dove (Ar. hamarri). [*chamri*, fowl, S2; *chemuri*, bird, hen, I. Ar. qunri.]

dech, good, merry. [*dakhlābekh*, S1; *dakh*, S2; *dakh*, I. The longer form of S1 suggests P. khūb disguised.]

reft, bad.

bedjon, *bekin*, to go. [The beginning is no doubt the P. prefix bi-, which is added to the future tense and sometimes to the second persons of the Imperative. One is tempted therefore to see in *bedjon* the Romani plural imperative *jan*. For that root cf. I.'s *jo(i)dan*, to go; and for the root *kin* S2's *kimādan* and I.'s *kinūt*, he went.]

bepilimi, to run. [The same P. prefix with S1's *palimādan*.]

ebilmicha, to jump. [Possibly a confusion, as *ebil* occurs below for 'elephant'.]

pirofta, shirt. [*peyrufti*, *peyrefiti*, I., who compares P. *pirāhan*.]

dolonga, breeches. [Possibly Ar. pantalōn.]

murossi, house shoes. [Cf. perhaps Ouseley's *māzi*, Macalister's, *māzā*, and Sōi mūzā.¹]

bukuki, to sing. [Cf. *bokī*, play, dance, I.; or Kurdish *khūnin* 'sing,' with prefix bi-.]

lahi, carpet. [Possibly a corruption of P. *falāsi*, which occurs in S1 as *lafās*, tent.]

ebil, employee, courtier (evidently an elephant). [Cf. *ebil infra*.]
šef, lion. Ar. *seba*. [A disguised form of P. *šir*.]
adem chab, wolf. [Apparently P. *ādam*, 'man', and *khāb*, 'silent'.]
giar, ass. [gīrreh, S1; *gerā*, I.; *kar* Macalister. Cf. Romani *kher* and P. *khar*.]

kanāveri, mule. [One is tempted to suppose that this is a compound from Romani *kan*, which occurs in Ouseley as *kān*; but Dr. Wirth's friends used *juk* for 'ear': see below.]

lotor, camel (P. *lūt*). [lochūr (?) I. P. shutur.]

ebil, elephant (P. *pil*). [In origin Ar. *fil*.]

rosa, head (Ar. *roš*). [*rīsa* S1, *rāsā* S2, who compares Ar. *rās*.]

nur, eye (P.). [*nukūr*, S1, 2; *nukur*, I. Persian *nūr*, 'light'; *nūr*-i-chashm, 'light of the eye'.]

juk, ear.

meitit, to die. [*mayti*, S1; *mayit*, *mātidan*, *maytādan*, S2, who compares Ar. *maīt*, 'dead'; *meytā* (*dan*), I.]

meitunenesh, to kill. [*maktāndam* (*an*), S1.]

lachāa, to fly.

gela, louse. [T. *kehle*.]

bereāi, flea, bec. [Cf. perhaps Ar. *barghit*, pl. *barāghit*, 'flea,' or T. *pirc*.]

naruki, wasp. [P. *narak*, 'sting'.]

mermit, a match (to kindle).

nihanika, pocket. [Cf. S1's *miānteh*, to beggar.]

lasenta, music.

kukādan, *duckmakuka*, to write. [-*dan* is the termination of P. infinitives. I. obtained a similar sounding word *kōkī* (*dan*) in the sense of 'to laugh'.]

roski, sud. [One is tempted to connect this with Romani *ron*; but cf. the next word.]

šiken, to shed tears.

ralum, to speak. [? a disguised form of Ar. *takallam*.]

nerendi, sky (Russian *njebo*).

bir, snow (Basque *bor*, snow, Norwegian *brä*, glacier, *bruma*). [P. *barf*.]

seleko, ice. [Cf. *selekoaba* above.]

badku, wild. [? Ar. *bādī*, 'inhabitant of the Desert,' or a metathesis-

pereni, storm (Slav god *Peruni*, *Рорéас*, la *burana*, Albanian *perendi*, god *Рорéи*). [Perhaps T. *firūnah* corrupted.]

norak, lightning. [Cf. *norek* 'fire' above.]

luarbo, to ride on horseback. [Possibly a disguised form of P. *suwār shudan*.]

moura, mother-in-law (cf. Latin *nurus*).

kokori, egg.

mur loudin, hen. [The beginning may be from P. *murch*, 'bird' or Kurdish *mirishk*, 'hen'.]

chonde loudin, cock.

chadi, sour milk.

ik, year.

bagal, sheep (Bavarian *bäzele*). [*bakil*, S2; *bagal*, I.; *bekra*, Ouseley; *bakrā*, Macalister. Romani.]

losin, goat.

kamari, nose.

denderi, tooth. [*dendik*, I.; *dāndā*, Macalister. Romani or P. *dandan*.]

boali, beard. [*wali*, 'hair', Macalister. Romani *bal*.]

chat, hand, arm. [*chast*, Ouseley; *čāš*, Macalister; *χās*, Gobineau;

chas, finger, S2. Rom.]

lekik, finger, toe.

chama, cheek. [? Romani. For confusion of *č* and *kh* cf. *pač* below.]

bekatal, bake.

pač, to cook. [*pek* (*iden*), I. P. *pakhtan*. Rom. *pek*-.]

hi, to pulse?

batati, to sleep. [I. has *beylut* in the sense of hungry, which looks similar, but in Dr. Wirth's word the *ba* may be the P. verbal prefix. If so *luti* might be a disguised form of Romani *suti*.]

til, oil. [*fil*, *fel*, I.; *tchl*, Ouseley. Cf. Pott, ii. 257 s.v. *cīval*.]

reka, butter. [? P. *karah*, or Kurdish *kerā* metathesized; cf. Macalister's *gir*, *giri*.]

šurek, salt. [*šūrki* (-ā), S2; *štūrēki*, *štūrēgi*, I.; *schourēki*, Gobineau; P. *šūr*.]

lapir, cheese. [S1's *lamlr*, which Dames identifies with P. *panir*.]

ghoš, eagle (T. *guš*).

hutera, wood. [*hūtrā*, S2; *buterō* (?), 'piece, fragment', I. Cf.

parum, packum, foot. [*pāgemī*, *pāyami*, I.]
dadach, lip. [T. *dadaq*.]
darnok, mouth. [P. *dahnak*.]
nike, elbow. [Hardly a corruption of Kurdish *enishk*.]
nike rani, knee. [With the ending cf. South Kurdish 'zrāni'.]
daan, wheat. [Perhaps the end of P. *gandam*.]
kurst, oat. [*kūruz*, barley, S2.]
morba, cat. [P. *gurbah* disguised.]
margala, cats. [Cf. Skt. *māṛjāra*.]

I venture to add a commentary only to one curious word *dagh*, 'earth.' The word was created by god Dgagha, according to the Ami, in the east of far Formosa, and the Sumerians knew a deity Daggig. 'Tuk, tik, 'earth' occurs in Avarian and Albanian. Very strange is also *bir*, sun; it is certainly not Aryan. I proceed.

bir, sun. [Cf. *bir*, 'snow' above!]
lul, moon (Lala is the moon goddess in ancient Asia Minor in Hittite territory). [*lail*, night, S1, who identifies it with Ar. *lailah*.]
diliq, house. [*dilil*, daylight, S2.]
kurm, house. [*kur*, *kurm*, I.; *gar*, *guri*, Onuseley; *kiri*, Macalister. The *m* may be the Persian affix meaning my.]
choank, sister. [Kurdish *khoeng*.]
donteri, bitch.

sonusta, dog. [*sonusta*, S1; *sonusta*, I.; *sonuta*, Onuseley; *snūā*, Macalister. Cf. Littmann, p. 12, who claims it as Romani.]
tirenk, cow. [*tirang*, ox, S1, 2.]
gora, horse (same word in Kashmir and many an Aryan language of India). [*ghora*, S1; *gorā*, S2; *goro*, I.; *ghorā*, Gobineau; *gōri*, mare, Macalister. Romani.]

maruti, mare (the sound of the *r* is between *r* and *g*). [*malangi*, I. Cf. perhaps P. *mādiān*, though why the strange sound should get into the word it is not easy to see.]

ghotu, colt (Indian and old Norse gotn, 'a stallion,' near Salzburg hojn, 'a miscreable mare').

monuch, throat. [? Rom. *men*.]

parum-pachum, leg. [Cf. 'foot' above.]

gergen, neck (Lat. *gurgus*). [*gergen*, I.; *gurgi*, Macalister. P.

lutet, knee. [Cf. *nike rani* above. Can this be Kurdish *la*, 'side,' which appears in some dialects as *lō* with khed 'thigh' ?]

šeft, milk. [*šift* (?) I. P. *šir* or T. *sūt* altered.]

šildo, honey. [*šildā*, *šildā*, sweet, S2; Macalister's *gūldā* suggests that this is Romani disguised.]

sinki, breast. [P. *sinah*; Kurdish *sīng*.]

lehare, front head.

fenk lo, gun. [P. *tafang*, Kurdish *tšenk*, 'gun,' and S1's *lu*, 'iron,'

which he connects with Hind. *lohā*.]

toruša, tobacco.

NOTES AND QUERIES

3.—LETTY COOPER

Among the many women confined in Millbank and Brixton gaols about the middle of the last century was one Letty Cooper, a Gypsy, of whom there is an interesting account in F. W. Robinson's *Female Life in Prison* (4th edition, London, n.d., pp. 182-90). It begins with Letty as a child, camping with her parents on Norwood Common, near which one of the prison matrons then lived, prior to her entering Government service. These Norwood Coopers claimed to be of 'pure royal blood,' and Letty's grandmother, a dark-skinned old crone, 'designated herself the queen of the gipsies.' Letty was dark-skinned too; and is described as being 'a sharp girl, strangely shy, though of a bold disposition.' Very often she would stand before the window, or loiter by the door, of the prison matron's home, 'pleased to be noticed, and more pleased by the gift of a stray penny'; and occasionally her brother Vangelo, who was a few years older, would come with her in the hope of obtaining a similar present. Between Letty and the elder sisters of the matron 'there was quite an intimacy.' She carried messages for them, and would sometimes intercept them in their walks, 'drop her best curtsy, and look askance at them out of her dark flashing eyes.' In their presence she was always demure, and if they 'detected her in any of her gambols on the Common, she would shyly conceal herself behind the furze.' She and Vangelo used to meet the Norwood coach, and run beside it up the hill, 'throwing those "flip-flaps" and somersaults that have since become a popular institution amongst our juvenile Bohemians.' In the summer-time, before starting down the hill to meet the coach, Letty 'would wreath round her hair a garland of poppies, buttercups, and daisies. Sometimes she would insist on her grandmother thus adorning her. A wild little elf she looked, as she ran beside the coach, with her wreath drooping over her forehead, and her dark eyes half blinded with the dust raised by the wheels.' Other members of the Cooper family 'speculated in donkeys, patronised little Letty, laughed at her antics, and, doubtless, appropriated the greater part of her pocket-money.'

The matron, leaving Norwood, then lost sight of Letty Cooper, but encountered her again in Millbank Prison. 'The woman had not fulfilled the promise of the girl. Evil passions had stamped their indelible imprint on her face, which was now without a single feminine trait to render it attractive. Although not more