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rich countries of the Isthmus, I would volunteer for the honour of being the guide to the new explorers through these forests, which I know well, having long lived in their midst.

I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

LUCIEN DE PUYDT.

3. *Progress of the French Survey Party in exploring the Sources of the Cambodia River.* Extracts from Reports by Colonel ALBERT FYTCHE, Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Rangoon, 9th August, 1867.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, that I have learnt that the French survey party, which left Saigon four or five months ago to explore the course of the Cambodia River, have reached the Shan States tributary to Yunan to the eastward of Bamo. They wrote from Mainglon or Maingla, to the Court of Ava, requesting permission to visit Mandalay, and a favourable reply has been sent, inviting them to visit the Burmese capital. The invitation to the party left Mandalay about the 31st July last.

The course laid down for the survey party was to ascend the Cambodia River, and follow its course along its banks as far as the Chinese frontier, and then to turn to the west, endeavouring to reach Bamo or some other place in the valley of the Irrawaddy. The town named Mainglon, or Maingla, is about north latitude $24^{\circ} 30'$ and east longitude $98^{\circ} 40'$, $98^{\circ} 15'$, $98^{\circ} 5'$, there being three towns named respectively Mainglon, Mainglon,* and Maingla, of the longitudes approximately given above. These towns are all on the main road from Tali, or Talifoo, *via* Yunchang to Bamo; the first of the three being on the route from Yunchang, Meinmo, and Bamo, the other two being on the route from Yunchang, Momein, and Sanda, or alternatively Moroun to Bamo. Practically, however, they are all much the same distance from Bamo, about a degree and a quarter to the eastward, and separated from that town only by the Kakhyen Hills. Their route up the Cambodia River must have been a successful one if they succeeded in following its course as high as Yunchang, the point from which they have apparently struck westward to Bamo.

27th January, 1868.

I HAVE to report that nothing has been heard of the party since its arrival at Kyan Hung. When at Mandalay I was informed that a letter had been received from the Tsanbwa of Kyan Hung, reporting the arrival of the mission there, and soliciting instructions whether the mission was to be allowed to pass through his territory, and his Majesty sent orders to the effect that they were to be permitted to proceed in any direction they pleased.

From no information having been received of their whereabouts since, I imagine they must have proceeded as far up the Cambodia River as possible, and then diverged into the track of the caravans, which leave the province of Sz'chuen yearly for the large trading mart of Hankow, situated at the mouth of the Han River, at its juncture with the Yangtse-Kyang.

A caravan has lately arrived at Mandalay, *via* Theinwee. They have heard nothing of the French mission; but this is not likely, if they have taken the route I now suppose they have, as the caravan comes from the north-western Yunan, whereas the French party, if it did pass through any part of Yunan, would traverse its south-eastern portion.

* Two towns of the same name.