

ing Russia, China, Japan (and, for the nonce, in her bullying seizure of Port Hamilton, England) for her neighbors. Between Great Britain, France and China, Siam is not always at ease. Yet it is in the direction of neither of these regions, but toward the other end of Asia that Mr. Knight, novelist and sailor, bids us look. Great Britain, Russia and China meet in that vague region called Central Asia. Here, on the high places of the earth, this skilful story-teller saw much exciting military and exploring adventure, and has told about it in a thoroughly engaging way. He fortifies his text with a good map and scores of illustrations, and, except in the inexcusable lack of an index, by which he gives the impression of cheapening his own work, he puts reader and student on good terms with him at once.

Mr. Knight left the fogs of London on February 26, 1891, and reached Bombay on March 23. He immediately set out toward snow-land and the roof of the world. Indeed, throughout his journeys, snow and ice troubled him more than the tropical sun or the rays that fall along the thirty-fifth parallel. Murree, which in mid-summer is a sanitarium with streets lined with bungalows, is 7,600 feet above the sea. When our traveller saw it, the snow lay eight feet deep in the streets, and up to the roofs of the bungalows. Reaching the vale of Kashmir, he tarried not long in the happy valley; but set out for the desolate mountain tracts north of it, in which he passed the greater part of a year. It is in this labyrinth of ranges of mountains, that three jealous and hostile powers are playing at the game of hide and seek, ostensibly trying to find a scientific frontier. Now that Great Britain is interfering so actively in the administration of the country, and setting on foot reforms of such wide-reaching influence, the information of an actual traveller is of the highest value. Mr. Knight is delightfully interesting in details of housekeeping, servants, etc., as well as in things more scientific, and in opinions as to policy. In Thibet, he studies the lamas and the monasteries and tells us of the theory of Incarnation, visits the Moravian and Roman Catholic Missions and describes ibex-stalking. We cross the rivers on skin rafts, we learn of the Afghans, and note that Great Britain, like old Rome, provides imperial safeguards by making good roads. Over these she is ready to march her India legions when the Russian bear puts his best foot too far forward. We meet the famous traveller Capt. Younghusband, whom we have heard of before in Manchuria.

Of the many tribes in India brought under British rule and into military service, the little Gurkas are among the best fighters. Mr. Knight was so fortunate as to be on hand when a collision occurred between the surveyors and road-makers, with their force of 3000 Gurkas and coolies, and the mountaineers, near Nilt. The local ruler had asked why the British had strayed thus into his country "like camels without nose-rings," declared that he cared nothing for the womanly English, hung by the skirts of the manly Russians and threatened to have the English agent's head brought to him on a platter, and to withstand the British advance, even if he had to use bullets of gold. The description of the energetic way in which the fighting was done and the forts and towers captured, is exceedingly animating and proves the writer a capital story-teller. Lively descriptions of the sword, and devil-dances, of life among the fantastic, harmless, manly, and gallant tribes of men follow, completing a most delightful narrative of a year's wanderings and adventures. We share the enthusiasm of the author who praises so justly the soldiers and civilians that are upholding the glory of the British Empire in circumstances of danger and difficulty. "It is in Asia, perhaps, that one realizes best what Great Britain is, and there one sees the pick of her sons living the larger and nobler life that men should live."

Incidentally, the study of the origin of cholera (p. 89), of the skilfulness of Asiatic servants, of the tolerance of the Buddhists and the rock-sculptures and images, are of great value and interest to students. The abundant illustrations will repay study. We pronounce this one of the most entertaining of recent books of travel.

### "Where Three Empires Meet"

By E. F. Knight. 8s. Longmans, Green & Co.

CHARMING AS SUCH a place must seem in a book-title, and fascinating as it is to a venturesome traveller, we do not imagine it to be lovely to those who are its permanent dwellers. Korea, "the little outpost country," is plagued by hav-