

## CHAPTER XXX.

### VARIOUS TRAVELLERS IN NORTHERN TIBET. — PRSCHEVALSKIJ'S FOURTH JOURNEY.

This brings us to the journeys in northern Tibet, about which a few words may be said. Prschevalskij began his fourth journey in October 1883 and finished it in October 1885. The distance covered amounted to 7815 km. From Kjachta (Kiakhta) he crossed the Desert of Gobi, and strange to say by a route which he had traversed twice, and even in some places three times before, then through the highlands of Kan-su, north of Koko-nor, and so reached the two lakes, the Dscharing-nor and the Oring-nor, in which the Hwang-ho takes its rise. After a side-trip to the upper Jang-tse-kiang, he proceeded farther through Tsajdam and over the Astin-tagh to Kara-koschun. From there he continued towards the west, along the northern foot of the Kwen-lun as far as Chotan, then followed the course of the Chotandarja, and finally reached home across the Tien-schan.

At the time when Prschevalskij performed this his fourth journey the northern border districts of Tibet were not particularly well known, but his journey gave as it were the impulse to several other enterprises in the same direction, though but few of them will bear comparison with his from the geographical point of view. Attempts to penetrate to Lhasa became *en vogue*, an enterprise in which not only did Prschevalskij fail, but all his European successors were not more successful than he was, until at last the holy city was entered by the English political mission of 1904.

In the year 1889 the Austrian Dr. Joseph Troll intended to penetrate into Tibet from Kaschgar, but after making certain investigations in East Turkestan, he contented himself with journeying to Kaschmir and India over the Kara-korum pass. The French traveller in Siberia, Joseph Martin, desired to make the same attempt, starting from Peking and travelling by way of the Koko-nor, but was prevented by illness; instead of that he made his way by the Central Asian lowlands to Kaschgar, and died in Margelan. But real importance attaches to Grombtschevskij's journey, lasting over 1½ years, in Pamir, Kara-korum, and Western Tibet, in the course of which he mapped 7600 km. In May 1890 he attempted, but without success, to penetrate into western Tibet from Polu. Returning to Polu and Chotan in the