

mistake had been made in antiquity, by Ptolemy, regarding the Oechardes and Bautisus. And it has been made by geographers, who died only a few years ago, in connection with the Tsangpo and Brahmaputra.

As regards Edrisi's sources, DOWSON says: »Idrísí gives a full compilation from the works of his predecessors, with some additional matter from sources now lost to us, but he does not appear to have used the writings of Bírúni (Alberuni), and his work is blemished by many false spellings.»¹ As quoted above Reinaud supposes he did not know Suleiman's account either. So far as I can see, and whatever he has taken from others, his description of Tibet is not like anything else written by Arabian geographers. In those places where he talks of the lakes which cannot possibly be anything but the Manasarovar, he must necessarily give the impression that he has derived his knowledge from travellers who have heard of the lake and, quite naturally, in many details misunderstood what they heard. So far as our region, the Manasarovar and the sources of the great Indian rivers, is concerned, Edrisi is by far the most interesting of all Arabian writers.

JAKUT, who died in 1229, has a good deal to tell about Tibet, but nearly all of it is copied from Masudi, except a few passages without geographical interest.

Concerning MUHAMAD BAKHTIYÁR it is told that in 1243 A. D. he marched towards the hills of Tibet. »Their roads pass through the ravines of the mountains, as is quite common in that part of the country. Between Kámrúp and Tibet there are thirtyfive mountain passes through which horses are brought to Lakhnauti».²

In his Jámú-t Tawa'ríkh, which was completed in 1310, RASHIDEDDIN has a chapter about India, most of which is taken from Alberuni.³

Opposite to Mount Meru, he places another mountain which is said to be composed of gold and silver.

The Hima mountains lie on the north of Kanauj, and on account of snow and cold form the extreme point of the habitation of man. This range has Kashmir in its centre . . . The rivers of the entire country of Hind, which flow from the northern mountains, amount to eleven . . . Some other mountains are called Harmakút (Hemakúta), in which the Ganges has its source. These are impassable from the side of the cold regions, and beyond them lies Machin. To these mountains most of the rivers which lave the cities of India owe their origin. Besides these mountains there are others called Kalárchal. They resemble crystal domes, and are always covered with snow, like those of Damáwand. They can be seen from Tákas and

¹ H. M. ELLIOT: The History of India, as told by its own Historians, edited by Prof. JOHN DOWSON. Vol. I. London 1867, p. 353.

² Elliot's History, Vol. II, 1869, p. 310.

³ Elliot's History, Vol. I. p. 44 et seq.