

CHAPTER V.

LATER MOHAMMEDAN WRITERS.

In the *Malfúzáti Timúri*, or the autobiographical memoir of the great conqueror TIMUR, which originally was written in the Jagatai Turki language, translated into Persian and dedicated to Emperor Shah Jahan who began his reign in 1628, we find only a few references which may be of interest in this connection.¹ During his campaign the Emperor received information that Nagarkot »was a large and important town of Hindustán, and situated in these mountains (Siwálik)». As soon as he heard this he decided to carry on war against the infidel Hindus of Nagarkot, and the city was conquered. »A party of the Hindus fled towards the mountain, and I taking a body of soldiers pursued them up that lofty mountain, and put them to the sword. After mounting to the summit I halted.»

In the city of Jabhán . . . »I made inquiries about the country and city of Kashmír from men who were acquainted with it, and from them I learned that Kashmír is an incomparable country». Its capital¹ was called Naghaz and a large river flowed through the city. »The source of this river is within the limits of Kashmír in a large lake, some parasanges in length and breadth, which is called Vír-nák . . . The river passes on and joins the Chináb above Multán. The united waters pass below Multán and then join the Ráwi. The river Biyáh comes down through another part and joins them, and the three united rivers fall into the Sind or Indus in the neighbourhood of Uch. All these (united) rivers are called the Sind or the Panjab, and this river falls into the Persian Gulf near Thatta.» He does not mention the Satlej in which the Bias falls before joining the Indus. The Ravi joins Chenab above Multan.

For a conqueror as Timur the inaccessible, and to a great extent uninhabited countries to the north had no value and no interest whatever, and he does not even mention them, though he who had drenched half Asia in blood certainly knew the geography better than anyone of his time. His historian, SHEREFEDDIN from Yesd,

¹ ELLIOT'S History of India, Vol. III p. 465 et seq.