

CHAPTER XII.

THE SHUI-TAO-TI-KANG ON THE SOURCE OF THE BRAHMAPUTRA AND THE SATLEJ.

In the *Shui-tao-ti-kang* or *Outlines of Hydrography*, Book 22nd, compiled by CHI CHAO NAN in the 26th year of Emperor CHIEN LUNG (1762 A. D.), we find the following description of the source of the Brahmaputra, which was translated for me by Professor OGAWA during my stay at Kyoto.¹ Under the heading: »*Waters of Hsi-tsang*» or Tibet, the author says:

»The *Ya-lu-ts'ang-pu-chiang* is the *Ta-chin-sha-chiang* (= Great Gold Sand River). It is supposed by some geographers to be the *Pa-pu-chuan* of olden times. Some consider it to be the *Hei-shui* (= Black Water) in *Yü-kung*, but it is too far situated. Its sources come out from *Ta-mu-chu-ko-k'a-pa-pu-shan*² standing at a distance more than 340 li northwest of *Cho-shu-tê*³ tribes in the western frontier of *Tsang*. [The north-western part of the mountain is near the source of the Lake *Ma-piu-mu-ta-la*⁴ in the *Lang-ch'ien-k'a-pu-pa-shan*.⁵ This mountain (*Ta-mu-chuk-k'a-pa-pu-shan*) is situated 300 li S.E. of *Kang-ti-ssü-shan* (Kailas Mountain). The mountain is very high and great, and its form resembles a horse, whence it is named. The source of the *Ya-lu-tsang-pu-chiang*⁶ is 35° W. (of Peking) and (the altitude of the north) Pole 29°.]⁷ There are three sources, all of which flow north-eastwards and unite into one river. The river flows at first turning eastwards, then south-eastwards for more than 200 li. A stream of fore mountains of *Ku-mu-kang* comes from S.W. to meet the river. The river now turning to the north-east for 100 li, receives the *Chiang-chia-su-mu-la-ho* which flows south-eastwards from

¹ To avoid misunderstandings I give Ogawa's translation literally, as I got it from him.

² Tamchok-kabab.

³ Choshut.

⁴ Mapam-tala, Manasarovar.

⁵ Langchen-kabab-mountains.

⁶ Yere-tsangpo-river.

⁷ Professor Ogawa tells me that the passages within brackets [] in the original Chinese text are given with smaller characters as annotations or explications to the geographical names mentioned in the text.