

near Kabul; the second, Chanab, takes its origin in the province of Quesmir or Cassamier; the third, Ravy, has its source in the neighbourhood of Lahor, while the fourth and fifth, Via and Sind, »come from much farther away.»¹ Two pages further on he says that Srinagar is on the river Bezat or Badt, which, after a great détour, falls into the Ganges. Kashmir borders on Kabul, and is fairly cold on account of the mountains; but considering that »the Kingdom of Thibet serves as its frontier on the northern side», the climate of Kashmir is rather temperate.

Regarding the northern provinces he gives the same information that had been given by Terry. The province of Siba with its capital of Hardware, is situated between Naugrakut and Pitan: »There the river Ganges takes its source.» And then follows the ordinary story about the divine rock with the Cow's Head, from which the river issues. Even in the new edition of 1727 Mount Caucasus separates the Empire of Mogol from Tartaria.

In Bergeron's edition of VINCENT LE BLANC'S voyages we meet again the ordinary store of knowledge regarding the two famous rivers. India has derived its name from the celebrated river Indus or Schind, which takes its origin from the high mountains of Caucasus and Paropamisus, »which are said nowadays to be the Naugracot & l'Vssonte.»²

Some people believe, though without reason, that the river Ganges is one of the four rivers of Paradise called Philon or Gihon. There is a great difference of opinion amongst modern scholars, he says, whether this river is the real Ganges of the ancients, or whether the ancient Ganges should not rather be the same as the river of Canton in China, or any still farther eastern river. He, however, leaves this question to be solved by others, and satisfies himself by saying, that all the Portuguese and many others regard the two rivers as identical, as the name is still the same as in antiquity. The same opinion is confirmed by the Jesuit fathers in their new reports on the great Kingdom of Tebet or Tibet and Cathay. The river has its source on the mountains of High India not far from that of the Indus, and the natives think it is unknown, as coming from Paradise.

A »certain dutchman» in Pegu gave him some information about Great Tartary, amongst the nations of which are such as the Mongal, Tangor and Thebet or Tibet. North of Pegu are desolated regions and sandy deserts, where wells are to be found only by the help of guides; in High Asia one could march 22 days seeing

¹ Voyages Celebres et remarquables, faits de Perse aux Indes Orientales par le Sr. JEAN-ALBERT DE MANDELSLO, Gentilhomme des Ambassadeurs du Duc DE HOLSTEIN en Moscovie & Perse, etc. . . . Mis en ordre & publiez, après la mort de l'illustre Voyageur, par le Sr. ADAM OLEARIUS, . . . Traduits de l'Original par le Sr. A. de WICQUEFORT . . . Tome I, Amsterdam 1727, p. 46. The original narrative of Mandelslo's journey to India which he undertook after the embassy to Persia, has the title: Das Hoch Edelgebornen Johan Albrechts von Mandelslo Morgenländische Reyse-Beschreibung . . . Herausgegeben durch ADAM OLEARIUM, . . . Schleswig 1658.

² Les Voyages fameux du Sieur Vincent le Blanc . . . Redigez fidèlement sur ses Memoires & Registres, tirez de la Bibliotheque de Monsieur de Peiresc . . . par Pierre Bergeron. Paris 1649, p. 67, 125 et seq. and 260 et seq.