

notions, especially from the discoveries of CONTI, though I cannot see any greater difference from Ptolemy than in the case of the Indus. The three feeders, Jumna, Ganges and Gaghra (?), come down from the great water-parting range; a right tributary from the S.W. may be the Son, and the two great tributaries from the east may be intended for the Brahmaputra and Barak, if not, as Fischer suggests, the northern one should represent the Irrawaddi, for Ava is situated on its banks and a legend, »maius gange am(nis) aliter daua dicitur», is taken from Conti. So far as I can see, the northern tributary can therefore under no conditions be the Brahmaputra. In spite of this mistake by the cosmographer his map is in these regions far superior to that of Fra Mauro, which shows a hopeless confusion in the hydrography.¹ Between the Indus and the Ganges is the lake, of which Conti, as recorded in RAMUSIO's collection, has some stories to tell and of which he says that the whole region drinks of its water. Fischer identifies it with the lakes of Udaipur and Debar. At the mouth of the Ganges is a city called Bengalia. The eastern part of the great range Fischer suggests to be the mountains of eastern Tibet, though they are more likely meant to correspond to the eastern ranges of the Himalayan system.

On our reproduction, Pl. XII, the legends are illegible, but only a few of them may be of some interest. Along the northern range with its several towers we read: »has turres con(struxit) presbiter Johannes rex ne inclusis . . . ad eum patet accessus».² The range is also adorned with a gate, from which the Ganges issues. The five feeders of the Indus come down from the »porta ferrea: ubi Alexander Trataros in(clusit)». On the part of the map which corresponds to the present Tibet and at the side of the golden image of a kneeling king the following legend was still visible in the 18th century: »rex Cambalech hic (?) est magnus canis».³

Imaus montes inaccessibiles is a great range which starts from the western end of the principal range and runs to the N.E. To the east of it is Scythia ultra Imaum montem and still further east two other ranges called montes inaccessibiles. In this region, which in later years went under the denomination Great Tartaria, a legend reads: »Hic adeo . . . habitantur ex ebreorum g . . . t . . . ne (generatione) tribus decem (r)ec(lusæ) qui leges suæ . . . gener.» These degenerated Hebrew tribes, as well as the Magog in the eastern part of the region, were the Tartars, who had been excluded by Alexander.

There are no traces of Marco Polo who, some 170 years before, had travelled through the whole of »Scythia ultra Imaum montem».

In 1457 to 1459 FRA MAURO, the learned Camaldolensian from Murano, drew a map of the world (Pl. XIII), which, though famous, was, so far as Asia is con-

¹ Compare also: Zurla: Di Marco Polo e degli altri Viaggiatori Veneziani . . . Vol. II, p. 345, Venezia, 1819.

² Épilogue de la Géographie de moyen age étudiée par Joachim Lelewel, Bruxelles, 1857, p. 169.

³ Heinrich Wuttke: Zur Geschichte der Erdkunde in der letzten Hälfte des Mittelalters . . . VI. und VII. Jahresbericht des Vereins für Erdkunde zu Dresden. Dresden 1870, p. 47.