

Anquetil du Perron is the commentator, I am going to refer to the French edition in reviewing and criticising his views.¹

In Vol. II Anquetil du Perron discusses Tieffenthaler's maps and furnishes them with his own criticisms from material already existing at that date.² When Tieffenthaler pretends that the real source of the Ganges is unknown and that it will for ever remain undiscovered as the roads beyond the »mouth of the Cow» are impracticable, Anquetil du Perron says that he is of a different opinion »as there is nowhere in the world a road absolutely impracticable for those who have feet», and indeed the source of the famous river had been discovered by Andrade, and was rediscovered later on by Webb and his comrades carrying out Colebrooke's plans for that purpose. He reminds us of the fact that in Bengal and Tibet the idea of the impossibility of reaching the source of the Ganges had grown immovable as the origin of the river was supposed to be in heaven. Then he quotes the views of Linscouden, and of Abbé TOSI who says some people believe the river begins at Mount Nagracot, whereas others think that it comes from far away, from the Scythian mountains and passes through the gorge, at the side of which a rock is like the head of a cow. Tieffenthaler believes the Ganges issues from a rock in the Tibetan mountains at about 33° N. lat. and 73° E. long. from Paris and then enters the gorge of Gangotri »seu Cataracta Gangis, quam etiam Os Vaccae apelant».

At the end of the 16th century the great Akbar sent his expedition to the source of the Ganges.³ Discussing the results of this expedition Anquetil du Perron arrives at the conclusion that the »cow's head» is not the real source, but that this must be looked for somewhere in the interior of great Tartary, an explanation that can be understood only if we consider his want of confidence in the Lamas' map, and his negligence of Andrade.

As to the river »Gagra», Anquetil du Perron says Tieffenthaler is the first who has ever mapped it and made the whole of its course known in Europe. But he thinks natives have furnished the information about the upper part of the river.⁴

The Gagra of Tieffenthaler is obviously the Map-chu, which lower down is called Kauriala and Gogra. He found that the upper part of his Gagra was called Sardjou, which is the river known under the names of Kali, Sardu and Chauka.

¹ Description historique et géographique de l'Inde, etc. 1. La Géographie de l'Indoustan, etc., par le Père Joseph Tieffenthaler, Jésuite & Missionnaire apostolique dans l'Inde. 2. Des Recherches historiques & chronologiques sur l'Inde, & la Description du Cours du Gange & du Gagra, avec une très grande Carte, par M. Anquetil du Perron. 3. La Carte générale de l'Inde, etc., par M. Jaques Rennell. Le tout, augmenté de remarques & d'autres additions, rédigé & publié en François, par M. Jean Bernouilli. Berlin 1786.

² Op. cit. Tome II, II^e Partie: Le Développement du Cours du Gange & de celui du Gagra, tiré des Cartes Manuscrites faites sur les lieux, par le P. Tieffenthaler . . . 1787, p. 266 et seq.

³ Vide note p. 72.

⁴ This also is obvious from Tieffenthaler's own words: »Neque solum ipsus, hasce regiones perlustravi, sed hominem arte geographica instructum . . . ablegavi, ut locorum intervalla, mundique Plagas rite exploraret.»