

CHAPTER IX.

THE BROTHERS GERARD.

From 1817 to 1829 the brothers GERARD made several journeys in the western Himalayas and contributed considerably to our knowledge of these regions. Almost all their work lies outside the limits of that part of Tibet we are discussing here, but they have gathered a good deal of interesting information about the two lakes and the sources of the rivers. Ritter is right in giving them the highest praise for the valuable results they brought home.¹ From their narratives I will only take out such parts as may be of interest to us.

Most important are the reports of Captain ALEXANDER GERARD, who, in his journey of 1817, was accompanied by Dr. GOVAN, and in 1818 by his brother, Dr. J. G. GERARD. The diaries of these journeys have been published by GEORGE LLOYD.² Here the journal of 1817 has been compiled from Gerard's route book. The diary from 1818 he had written himself. The map was reduced from Gerard's original maps. The editor is no doubt right in calling him one of the most enterprising of British travellers, a man of indefatigable zeal.

Alex. Gerard very well knew the existence of the range situated on the right bank of the upper Indus, which was already known to Moorcroft. Native travellers had described this range to him, but he had never fallen in with anybody who had crossed it in a north-easterly direction. From the Keoobrung pass he got a view of the range that runs along the left bank of the Eekung choo or Garoo branch of the Indus and which he regarded as a continuation of the above-mentioned one. He could see the part of it where Moorcroft passed on his way from Daba to Gartok. He was informed that a projection of this range, which is crossed again between Garoo and Mansurowur, forms the Kailas or »Kangree» mountain, situated north of the sacred lake.

He confesses that the extraordinary orographical arrangement he gives to this part of western Tibet is only conjectural. Thus he believes there is a great central

¹ Die Erdkunde von Asien, Bd II p. 546.

² Account of Koonawur in the Himalaya etc. London 1841.