

## CHAPTER XIII.

### HENRY STRACHEY.

We now come to a classical account of a journey to the lakes and surrounding regions, namely that of Lieut. HENRY STRACHEY, who visited these places in September and October 1846.<sup>1</sup>

Already at Askot he met two fakirs who, during the two last years, were said to be the only ones who had succeeded in reaching the Manasarovar *viâ* Byáns, a fact which he did not regard as a lucky omen for his own journey. And still he not only succeeded, but also brought back a great amount of personal observation, which put the whole hydrographical problem upon new and firmer ground. I will here mention some of the most important results of his exploration.

He went up the Kali river in Byáns, and left the road to Lípu-Lekh to his right. The upper Kali was called Kunti or Kunti Yánkti. He gives a very detailed description of the pass Lánkpya Dhúra (17,750 feet). His first camp north of the pass was Larcha, from where he could see through the opening northward a glimpse of distant blue mountains, which he supposed to be part of the Gángri range, on the north side of the Sutlej. Then he followed the valley of the Dárma-Yánkti. Two or three miles down he passed an opening from the south-westward through the mountain on the left, coming in two branches from the Dárma passes, Nyue and Kach, which communicate this way with Húndés. The Dárma-Yánkti has derived its name from its alleged origin in this quarter, though as far as he could see, by far the principal body of the river is that by which he had descended from the base of the Byáns, and not the Dárma, Himáchal . . .

At his camp Láma Choktan he saw, on October 2nd, the north-western horizon bounded by the Gángri range tipped with some snow. In its middle rises the snow-capped Peak of Kailás, somewhat higher than the rest of the line. A few miles northward the Dárma-Yánkti is joined by Gúnda-Yánkti, rising from the Dárma

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<sup>1</sup> Narrative of a Journey to Cho Lagan (Rakas Tal), Cho Mapan (Mánasarówar), and the valley of Pruang in Gnari . . . . . Journal Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. XVII, Part II, 1848, p. 98, 127 and 327 et seq.