

CHAPTER XX.

THE SOURCE OF THE SATLEJ.

From May to October 1905 Dr. T. G. LONGSTAFF undertook a journey in the Western Himalayas, and six weeks of this time were spent in Tibet, during which he joined company with Mr. CHARLES A. SHERRING, I. C. S. Sherring has published a very interesting account of the journey, from which I will quote some important passages.¹

He calls the Gurla Memo-Nam-Nyimri, the same form that is used by the Great Trigonometrical Survey. Nimo-Numgyl is given by Longstaff as the local Tibetan form. The lakes are called Mobang and Lagang by Sherring and Mo-bang and La-gang by Longstaff. Sherring regards the Indus as rising from the Kailas Range.² The »Sanpoor Brahmaputra» is said to rise from the Mariam or Maryum Pass. On the map the legend: »Source of the Brahmaputra River» is found in 82° 25' E. long. and 30° 33' N. lat., a few miles south of the Maryum Pass. The Gurla Pass, between Karnali and the lakes, is given at 16,200 feet. Of Moorcroft he says that he saw the source of the Sutlej river. The circumference of Manasarovar is correctly given at 45 miles. He knows four of the monasteries round the lake: Gozul, Thokar, Jaikep and Jiu.

Already in the preface he calls attention to a very good panoramic view of the whole length of the channel with one lake at each end. »Every reader can now solve for himself those problems which have engaged the attention of the public for a century, viz., as to whether there is any, and if so what, connection between the two lakes.» Quoting Strachey he adds:³

»This statement is undoubtedly quite accurate, for we saw the channel which answered the above description. It is a fact that at this present moment no water is actually flowing between the two lakes, the reason being that storms blowing from the east have thrown up sand at the mouth of the passage to a height of about 4 feet, but the best native information on the spot gives it as a fact that after heavy rains the water traverses the channel. The last

¹ Western Tibet and the British Borderland, etc. London 1906.

² Op. cit. p. 45.

³ Op. cit. p. 272.