

CHAPTER XL.

NAIN SING AND THE TSANGPO.

We have dealt with NAIN SING's survey of the sources of the Tsangpo.¹ Some 40 miles S.E. of Tamjan he crossed the first large tributary, Chu-Nago, which comes from the north; »intermediately only two small tributaries were noticed.² From Chu-Nago the Tsangpo was found to flow S.E. and 50 miles lower down it received a large tributary, Chachu Sangpo, coming from the north; it was about 200 paces wide, »and not very much inferior to the Brahmaputra itself».

From Chachu the Tsangpo is said to flow 4 or 5 miles due south, then it continues S.E. for 30 miles, makes a great bend to the south, receives the Shorta Sangpo from the southern mountains, and, after having turned N.E. again, receives the Charta Sangpo, which, in October, was some 250 paces broad, while its tributary, the Chaka Chu, was 150 paces broad. The combined Charta Sangpo was one of the largest, if not the largest of all the tributaries he saw. In May it was very slightly swollen and had ice clinging to the edges.

From here the Tsangpo was observed to flow some 40 miles a little south of east. Thence to a point above Lhatse-dsong, Nain Sing left the Sangpo. This bit of about 100 miles remained unknown until RYDER mapped the course some 40 years later. Near Lhatse-dsong, his Janglache, the Tsangpo flows N.E. to meet »a very large river, called the Raka Sangpo». Nain Sing followed the Raka Sangpo from the Gur-la to Nabring lake. »At this place it was a large river, but when seen again lower down, at its junction with the Brahmaputra, the Raka Sangpo had become very much larger, having evidently received a large addition by one or more tributaries from the north.» Its breadth was estimated at 200 paces. From here his companions took boat to Shigatse, while Nain Sing himself followed the southern bank of the Tsangpo, »crossing a good-sized tributary from the south». Sometimes he could see

¹ Page 233 above.

² Report of a Route-Survey made by Pundit *— from Nepal to Lhása, etc. by Captain T. G. Montgomerie, *Journal Royal Geogr. Society* Vol. 38, 1868, p. 129 and 211 et seq.