

CHAPTER XLII.

EUROPEAN SPECULATION BEFORE RYDER'S SURVEY.

In this chapter I will only give a few examples of different European geographers' opinions regarding the northern tributaries and the northern watershed of the Tsangpo. On BRIAN H. HODGSON's map the watershed is formed by an enormous range, which we shall consider later on. From its southern side the tributaries of the Tsangpo come down. They grow slowly larger towards the east. They are very like each other and one sees that everyone of them is home-made. There is not a line on this map that has a remote resemblance with really existing facts. The single tributary which can be identified is the Ki-chu, and that only by help of »Hlassa«, situated on its bank. As compared with this map D'ANVILLE's and the Ta-ch'ing maps are ideals of exactness and correctness.

On SAUNDERS' map, which was also published in Markham's book on Bogle and Manning, the same gigantic range is generally the northern watershed, but the tributaries are drawn as found by Nain Sing. Only the Charta Sanpo breaks through the watershed range. Some of the plateau lakes and rivers are taken from the Ta-ch'ing map or d'Anville's, and Nain Sing's new lakes, Dangra-yum-tso and the rest, are also there.

On GRAHAM SANDBERG's very rough sketch map¹ there is, just south of Nain Sing's lakes, a long range, Torgot Gangri, stretching west to east. The »Chhorta Chhu« or Chaktak-tsangpo begins even a short distance north of that range, at the same latitude as the southern shore of Dangra-yum-tso. But Tsa Chhu and Naku Chhu begin at the southern slopes of the western continuation of that same range.

Sir THOMAS HOLDICH's opinion is expressed in the following words:² »Somewhere on the southern edge of the Chang is the water divide of India. No one has defined its exact geographical position. Some of the gigantic lakes of Central Tibet may possibly be within the Indian basin, but of many of them it is known that they have no outlet.« He even speaks of »the valley of the upper Brahmaputra,

¹ In »The Exploration of Tibet«, Calcutta, London 1904.

² Tibet, The Mysterious. London 1905, p. 36.