

GABET's. He compares¹ the following three sources: Grueber's second letter, Kircher in *China Illustrata*, and a work published in 1697 by JACOPO CARLIERI in Florence under the title: *Notizie varie dell'Imperio della China*. The latter contains more details and Tronnier is correct in asking why these details were not originally communicated by Grueber in his letters. It runs as follows:

»Esséndo egli di China entrato nelle arene della Tartaria deserta, e quella attraversata, in tre giorni, arrivata alla spiagge di Kokonor. Questo è un mare simile al Caspio, di done hà l'origine il fiume Giallo di China... Kokonor dunque significa in lingua Tartara Mar grande, dalle rive del quale successivamente discostandosi il Padre, entrò in terra Toktokai... Per questa terra passa il fiume Toktokai, da cui prende il nome; bellissimo fiume e sull' andare del Danubio, se non che ha pochissimo fondo, e un' uomo a cavallo lo passa francamente a quado... Quindi inoltratosi nel paese di Tangut arrivò in Retink, provincia assai popolata del Regno di Barantola, e finalmente Regno detto propriamente Barantola...»

His statement that the Hwangho should originate from Koko-nor reminds us of the Manasarovar as the source of important rivers. Tronnier identifies the river Toktokai with the Murussu. Of special interest is the notice that they passed through Reting-gompa, a great temple half-way between Lhasa and the Nien-chen-tang-la range. It is situated on the great road of the Mongolian pilgrims. Several roads from the north meet at the important place Nak-chu². So whatever road the two missionaries may have taken, they must have passed through Nak-chu. And between Nak-chu and Reting they have crossed the eastern continuation of the Nien-chen-tang-la, which, in these parts, is the highest and water-parting range belonging to the Transhimalayan system. Only from what we positively know nowadays can such an assertion be made, for in Grueber's letters there is nothing about it, nor about any other of the high ranges in eastern Tibet.

By some speculation it would be easy to prove that the mountain range on Kircher's map, beginning at »Origo Gangis et Indi» and stretching to Lassa were nothing else than the Transhimalaya. For the peak with the sources of the Ganges and the Indus must obviously be the Kailas, which belongs to Transhimalaya. So does Lassa itself. But Langur mons, situated further south, is identical with the Himalaya as is easy to understand from Desideri and Beligatti. However, such speculation should be of no consequence in so far as the unreliability of the map is concerned, together with the fact that the texts do not mention a word of any such mountains in Tangut, Retink or Barantola.

¹ Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin, 1904, p. 342.

² It was the Governor of this place who stopped me in 1901.