

CHAPTER III.

BELIGATTI.

To give the history of the Capuchin Mission in Tibet does not belong to the object of this work.¹ We have only to analyze, to the best of our power, the geography as found in the different reports. As a good many missionaries visited Lhasa, there ought to exist a real literature on Tibet, but in reality the reports are few and meagre. The most important is GEORGI's *Alphabetum Tibetanum*, which was compiled chiefly on material furnished by della Penna and Beligatti. There can be no doubt that hitherto unknown manuscripts may be buried somewhere in Italian archives, and will have to be discovered in the future.

In the present chapter I will insert a short extract from the important narration of Beligatti's journey in company with della Penna, which was found in Biblioteca Comunale Mozzi-Borgetti di Macerata and has the following title:² *Giornale di Fra Cassiano da Macerata nella Marca di Ancona Missionario apostolico Cappucino nel Tibet, e Regni adiacenti dalla sua partenza da Macerata seguita gli 17 Agosto 1738 sino al suo ritorno nel 1756 diviso in due libri. Libro primo.*³

This first volume is a manuscript of 203 pages *in octavo* with illustrations and a map of Nepal, including the three cities of Katmandu, Batgao and Patan. It is a pity that the *Relazione* has been published without map and illustrations. The volume deals with the journey of the author and his company to Lhasa, and also with the customs and habits of the inhabitants and some religious festivals. The second volume is lost. It probably contained a general description of the country and its inhabitants and of the persecutions through which the missionaries were forced

¹ For particulars: Ritter: *Erdkunde von Asien*, Band II, p. 457 et seq., C. Puini: *Il Tibet* etc. p. XLIX et seq., Adrien Launay: *Histoire de la Mission du Thibet*, Tome I, p. 31 et seq., Graham Sandberg: *The Exploration of Tibet*, p. 31 et seq., and, the best of all: Sylvain Lévi, *Le Népal*, Vol. I, p. 98 et seq.

² *Relazione inedita di un viaggio al Tibet del Padre Cassiano Beligatti da Macerata (prima metà del secolo XVIII) per Alberto Magnaghi, Firenze 1902.*

³ An extract is to be found in Sir Thomas Holdich: *»Tibet the Mysterious»,* p. 80—85, which is taken from Graham Sandberg: *»The Exploration of Tibet»,* p. 62—83.