

Beligatti is an excellent observer, conscientious, simple minded, quiet and plain. His narrative is a treasury, although it does not give us any new knowledge. But it throws new light on the conditions under which the Capuchins lived and travelled, and it is with the greatest sympathy and admiration one turns the pages of his little book which appeared some 160 years after it was written. He has relived in it and it is a worthy monument over his life.¹

¹ I cannot find the place where, according to Wilford, F. Cassiano (Beligatti) should have called the Mount Méru or Tien-c'han — Tangra or Tangla (Asiatic Researches, 1808, Vol. VIII, p. 315). I quote the following passage from Wilford. Speaking of de Guignes' view that Siue-shan should be the southern part of the circle of mountains north of India, he says: »The Southern extremity of this circle is close, according to the present Hindu maps, to the last, or Northern range, called Nishad'ha; and this is actually the case with the mountains of Tangrah, near Lassa, which is in the interval between the second and third range. According to F. Cassiano, the mountains of Tangrah are seen from the summit of Cambálá, several days' journey to the Westward of Lassa. The famous Pura'n-gir left them on the left, in his way from Tissoo-Lumbo to China, at the distance of about twelve coss, and did not fail to worship them. At the distance of seventy-seven coss from the last place, he reckoned Lassa to be about twenty coss to the right; twenty-three coss beyond that, he was near the mountains of Ninjink Tangrá, a portion of that immense circular ridge. In his progress toward the famous temple of Ujuk, or Uzuk, called Souk in the maps, he saw them several times. Close to Ninjink-Tangra he entered the mountains of Lurkinh, called Larkin in the maps.»

It is interesting to find the name Nien-chen-tang-la mentioned so long ago. It is corrupted, but very easy to recognise. It will be seen later on that when Hodgson called the northern mountains Nyenchhen-thangla he had got this name, — not from Purangir or Wilford, but from Ritter. Even Klaproth was not the first to introduce it, for it was known in India before he published his Chinese geographical texts.

The Tangra or Tangla is d'Anville's Tancla M. the highest summit of which is his Tchimouran. Purangir's Lurkinh is d'Anville's Larkin M. and Nain Sing's Dam-largen-la. From whatever source Wilford has got his information that Cassiano Beligatti saw the mountains of Tangrah from Kamba-la, the statement is no doubt correct, for Beligatti could see Nien-chen-tang-la, d'Anville's Tancla from the pass.
