

In Tibet these three chains are comparatively regular but further east they disappear altogether, or rather join into an immense knot of mountains, just as in the west of Tibet. Klaproth complains that the missionaries in their works on China have completely omitted to pay any attention at all to the physical geography. The Chinese are nothing less than geologists. They have no general names for the mountain ranges in their country. Every mount is particularly designated in relation to its form, its height, its situation or other remarkable circumstances. Klaproth therefore finds it very difficult to follow on the maps the stretching and direction of the principal chains. The single basis he has been able to use is the indication of the height and the eternal snow of different mounts, and, combining this material, he is able to draw the chains on his map. This method must of course lead to very uncertain results, still, the summary given above shows that Klaproth worked in the right direction and that he had reached a long way beyond d'Anville. In fact he inaugurated a new era in European conception of Tibetan orography.

Klaproth's second range which he makes start from the Kailas, is situated south of the Tsangpo, and therefore to a certain extent, and especially in its central part identical with Colonel Burrard's Ladak Range, and with Reclus' Transhimalaya.

The third chain in Klaproth's system is of the greatest interest to us. Here for the first time, an attempt is made to join all the different ranges of d'Anville north of the Tsangpo into one mountain system, which partly corresponds to Burrard's Kailas Range. Klaproth does not hesitate to call this chain the eastern prolongation of the Kara-korum, a view which, later on, was adopted by one or two geographers. With the limited material that was at his disposition, it is wonderful that Klaproth could reach so far in the right direction, for, though this problem is not yet definitely settled, Klaproth was very likely right. Further east the third chain is the southern boundary of the Mongol nomads, a view that is nearly correct and which in later years was adopted by Humboldt, Ritter, and Brian Hodgson. A part of the chain is supposed to surround the lakes from which the Targo-tsangpo comes, a view that is wrong in so far that the Targo-tsangpo in the sense of d'Anville and Klaproth does not exist. But regarding the situation this hypothetical river occupies on d'Anville's and Klaproth's maps, we can easily understand the conclusion of the latter. The continuation of the chain is very well placed, namely along the southern shore of Tengri-nor where it rises into the high glacier massive of Nien-chen-tang-la. In Sam tan gandza the chain finally comes to an end.

In the *Wei-Tsang-t'u-chih* or Notice on the Provinces Wei and Tsang, published by Klaproth,<sup>1</sup> we read a very interesting description of North and East Tibet:

<sup>1</sup> Nouveau Journal Asiatique, Tome IV, p. 81, and Tome VI, p. 161 and 321, Paris 1829 and 1830.