

## CHAPTER VIII.

### KARL HIMLY.

In the preceding chapters I have twice mentioned the mysterious road which, according to Chinese sources, in a comparatively late time joined Lhasa with Keriya and Khotan, thus crossing the most extensive and elevated highland in the world. In the *Wei-Tsang-t'u-chih* it is said that this road proceeds from Lhasa north-westwards through Nak-tsang, passes the mountain of Keriye-la and further through the desert of Gobi to Yarkiang (Yarkand). The whole region is said to be full of sand and stones; there is neither water nor vegetation. The natives call the region Gobi and Ola, or desert and mountains.

Quoting Dutreuil de Rhins' discussion of the Ta-ch'ing map we again return to this extraordinary road, of which Professor GEORG WEGENER tells us that it was opened by Emperor CHIEN LUNG as a trade road from Lhasa *viâ* Tengri-nor to Polu, Keriya and Khotan.<sup>1</sup>

KARL HIMLY gives us some information about this road, taken from a Chinese author, Sü Sung Sing Po who in the year 1817 had visited Ili and published his work in 1824.<sup>2</sup> His description starts from the rivers and enumerates the places situated near them; he also deals with the history of the country. The work consists of five parts, each one with a map. In the introduction he describes the mountains situated between the sacred lakes of Tibet and Tian-shan, as well as the Hwangho and its supposed source branch the Tarim. Then follows the description of the Kashgar-darya, which is said to be formed by two branches, the Ulan-ussu or Kysyl-su and the Yaman-Yart-river. The joint river is called Thsung-Ling-Pei-ho or Northern Thsung-Ling River, after the Kysyl-Yart range or Burrard's Kashgar Range, which in Chinese is called Thsung-Ling. The next river of the work is Yarkand-darya which, together with Tisnâf, is called Thsung-Ling-Nan-ho or the Southern Thsung-Ling River. Finally Yü-Tien-ho or Khotan-darya is mentioned.

<sup>1</sup> Festschrift . . . Richthofen, p. 404.

<sup>2</sup> Ein Chinesisches Werk über das westliche Inner-Asien. Its Chinese title is Si-yü-shui-tao ki or »Annotations about the watercourses of the western regions».