

On Tieffenthaler's map there is, north of the Manasarovar, the likeness of a mountain, obviously Kailas.¹

JOHN STEWART gives us in a letter to John Pringle the same feeling of uncertainty about the mountains north of India. In his *Account of the Kingdom of Thibet* he only tells us that this country »lies to the northward of Hindostan, and is all along separated from it by a range of high and steep mountains, properly a continuation of the great Caucasus, which stretches from the ancient Media and the shores of the Caspian sea, round the north-east frontiers of Persia, to Candahar and Cassamire, and thence, continuing its course more easterly, forms the great northern barrier to the various provinces of the Mogul empire, and ends, as we have reason to believe, in Assam or China».² This description even reminds us of old Ptolemy.

Major RENNELL gives us another example of a desperate struggle to make the best of the extremely meagre material existing at the time.³ We have seen that he adopted the view of the Lama surveyors regarding the source of the Ganges and still he had no confidence in their map. Discussing the position of Lhasa he says: »We have the history of the Lamas' map in du Halde, which is not altogether favourable to its character; especially in the parts towards the source of the Sanpo and Ganges. A close examination of its particulars, turns out still more unfavourable to it. For instance, the place where the Ganges enters the plains of Hindoostan, is placed under the 28th degree of latitude; tho' it is known by our late observations, to be in about 30° . . . With respect to Hurdwar, the proof is positive of its being 2 degrees farther to the south than it ought to be; and this furnishes a strong presumptive one, that all the western parts of the map, are faulty in the same proportion: and that the sources of the Ganges and Sanpoo, instead of being between the 29th and 30th degrees of latitude; are, in fact, between the 31st and 32nd . . .» As regards Lhasa, he says, d'Anville adopted the view of the Lamas and placed it at 29°35' N. lat. This is on the detailed map; on the general map it is at 29°10'. »Father Giorgi, who travelled to Lassa from Bengal (and whose route is expressed in my map) says the latitude of Lassa is about 30 degrees and a half, and . . . it can hardly be in a lower parallel.»⁴ In this view Rennell was more perspicacious than regarding the source of the Ganges. It does not matter that he is mistaken in believing that Giorgi travelled the route to Lhasa himself. Of this itinerary Rennell says we are entirely in the dark as to the particular direction of his course, which is not surprising if we remember how little Tibet was known in Rennell's time.

In the following words Rennell expresses his opinion about Tibetan mountains in general: »Between Tassasudon and Paridrong, is a chain of mountains still higher

¹ Vol. I, Pl. LII.

² The Annual Register . . . London 1786, p. 32.

³ Memoir of a Map of Hindoostan; etc. . . . Second Edition. London 1785, p. 96 et seq.

⁴ Op. cit. p. 97.