

north of the Tsangpo. This indeed seems to be the case, as he says the Kailas may be considered its centre, and the western and eastern parts of the ridge are situated north of the upper Indus and Brahmaputra. Every doubt disappears by a look at his map (Vol. II, Pl. V), where the Kailasa Mountains stretch from a point N.E. of Manasarovar towards the west. But he has not dared to enter on his map the eastern continuation of the range, from Manasarovar and further north of the Tsangpo. For, as he says, very little is known of this range. And he has left to others to take another step, namely to suggest that this »ridge» were in connection with the Nien-chen-tang-la of the Chinese maps.

The Chinese were incomparably better informed about the Tabie-tsaka and its salt deposits than Hamilton. They knew, years before, not only the fact of salt transport from the place, but had also made a map both of Tarok-tso and Tabie-tsaka. Hamilton only heard from the natives of Nepal that such a lake existed: »The borax and salt are said to be brought from a lake, which is situated nearly north from Kathmandu, about fifteen day's journey beyond the Brahmaputra. They are conveyed to Nepal on the backs of a large kind of sheep, of which many have four horns, and which seem to be the common beasts of burthen in all the countries towards the sources of the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra.»¹

It is curious to see how, a hundred years ago, Europeans hardly dared to approach the question of the existence of a mountain system or range north of the Tsangpo. If Hamilton had only seen d'Anville's map he could have compared the information he got from the natives with the results of the Chinese survey. He would not have been able to proceed any further than to say that this coincidence proved beyond doubt the *existence* of a mountain system, although it had to be explored to be known. Even when he speaks of the trade route from Digarchi (Shigatse) and Lhasa to »Siling or Sining», the conclusion should have been near at hand, with the assistance of the Chinese map, that this road had to cross the eastern continuation of this »third ridge». But there are innumerable examples of how long a time has been necessary to clear up geographical problems, and it is not surprising that this should in a very high degree be the case in such a country as Tibet, so difficult of access.

Nearly all the knowledge possessed by J. B. FRASER regarding the Trans-himalayan regions is included in the following passage of his: »The only European travellers who are known to have entered on this new ground are Messrs Moorcroft and Hearsay who penetrated by the Nitee-Mana pass, and reached the lake of Mantulloe, Mansrowar, or Mepang. All these sources lead us to presume a pretty extensive detail of hills beyond the loftiest belt, that by no means terminate even at Gara or Gartope, though they do not reach the height of those to the westward and southward. A branch of the Cailas range, undoubtedly a ramification of

¹ Op. cit. p. 214.