

I have given above a short extract of the Tibetan geography of the MINCHUL KHUTUKTU who died in 1839.¹ He says that »north of these mountains (Himalaya), there is a snowy mountain, although several people regard this last mentioned one as one and the same with Gan-dise (Gans-ti-se), but it seems more suitable to attribute this name, as a nomen appellativum, not only to the Gandise, but also to many thousands of other mountains» between Kabul and Kam (K'ams). It cannot be said without hesitation that he means the Transhimalayan system, as the snowy mountain he speaks of was probably the Kailas. He mentions the lake Namtsochugmo (sKyem-gnam-mts'o-p'yug-mo) or Tengri-nor and »one of the four stormy, snowy mountains, gÑan-c'en-t'an-lhai-gans-ri (Ngan²-chen-tang-la-gangri)», but he does not say whether he has seen it himself or heard it described by others.

Thus the Khutuktu has known the western and eastern boundary pillars of one system, and even some snowy mountains north of the Himalaya but he has by no means approached the orographical problem any nearer than the Chinese topographers.

Among European compilers from Chinese and other sources Father GROSIER may also be mentioned. He has a special chapter on Tibet (Chapitre IV: Du Thibet)³ in which he gives some very short and rather good information of the country.

Le Thibet est connu sous différents noms. Les Chinois l'appellent Tsan, les Tartares Barantola, Bouttan, Tangout Le Thibet est renfermé entre le pays de Kokonor, les provinces chinoises de Sé-tchuene et d'Yune-nane, le royaume d'Ava, les Etats du Mogol, la Buckarie et le grand désert de Cobi. Son étendue, d'orient en occident, comprend plus de vingt degrés, et plus de huit du nord au sud.

He deals with the history of Tibet, and then describes its climate, productions, etc.

La saison humide commence en juin et dure jusqu'au mois de septembre; les pluies sont alors abondantes et presque continues. Depuis le mois d'octobre jusqu'au mois de mars, l'air est pur, le ciel serein, et presque jamais obscurci d'aucun nuage Le Thibet, par sa position géographique, participe à l'élévation du plateau de la Tartarie et à la nature de son sol, imprégné de nitre . . .

La partie la plus occidentale du Thibet, laquelle s'étend jusqu'aux frontières des Etats du Mogol et de la province de Cachemire, est un pays peu connu, fort rude, et hérissé de montagnes presque impraticables. Les passages étroits qu'elles laissent entre elles ouvrent cependant l'entrée du Thibet à quelques voyageurs, qui, venus de la Perse ou de l'Inde, ont assez de courage pour tenter cette route.

Father Grosier has some quotations from Desideri and *Lettres Edifiantes*, and that is all he has to tell concerning western Tibet. Still, he had a more correct conception of the country than Rawlinson so many years later. He also knows the narratives of Turner, Robert Saunders and George Bogle, and, of course, the work of P. Georgi.

¹ See Vol. I, p. 126. *Geografia Tibeta perezod is Tibetskago sochineniya Minchul Khutuktii*, V. Vasilieva. St Petersburg 1895.

² According to Professor A. Grünwedel the form Ngan is preferable to Nien and Nyen.

³ *De la Chine, ou description générale de cet empire, rédigé d'après les mémoires de la mission de Pé-kin*. Troisième édition, par M. l'Abbé Grosier, Paris 1818, Tome deuxième, p. 59 et seq.