

of a meridional range all the way up to the Polar Sea. But he adds: »Derselbe Name Imaus (Himavat, Schneeberge), welcher ursprünglich von den alten Geographen für einen Theil der grossen, von W. nach O. parallel dem Aequator streichenden Kette gebraucht wurde, ward späterhin auf einen Seitenzweig ausgedehnt, der gegen N. ablenkt und nach einer systematischen Fiction als Meridiankette das ganze Continent bis zum Eismeere abtheilen sollte.»

The following passage is, as will be seen, only partly correct:

»In den drei Tübets streichen die einzelnen Ketten, welche sich im Innern der Hochebene selbst erheben, allgemein in der Richtung eines Parallels. Es kommt mir keineswegs wahrscheinlich vor, dass die Idée der Meridiankette des Imaus der Alten, ein so langes und Jahrhunderte hindurch von den Karavanen nach Serica durchschnittenen Gebirge, von den Tübetanischen Ketten Dangbo, Kailas oder Karakorum-Padisshah, welche höchstens in einigen Theilen SO.—NW.-Richtung haben, hergenommen sein kann. Auch führen uns die ältesten und authentischsten Stellen im Zend-Avesta, nach Hrn. Burnous, auf einen Imaus im Norden der Tübets, zu dem Bordj, 'Nabel der Gewässer, welche Ormuzd gegeben', der Quelle des Arg oder Jaxartes der Griechen. Der Bordj scheint diesem Gelehrten den 'westlichen Theil des Thian-schan oder Himmelgebirges der Chinesen' zu sein, und dieser Theil schliesst sich wieder an die *Meridiankette* des Bolor oder Belur-tagh an.»¹

He speaks of the simplicity of the orographical structure of High Asia, where he finds four mountain-systems: Altai, Thian-shan, Kwen-lun (with the Hindu-kush and Elburz) and the Himalaya. They are separated by basins or, as between Kwen-lun and Himalaya by high plateaux, Ladak and H'lassa. The intermediate spaces between the four systems may also be characterised by lakes: Balkash, Lop-nor and Tengri-nor.

Only at so early a date could the word »simplicity» be used in connection with the most complicated mountain-systems on the earth's surface. On Humboldt's map they have, indeed, been very much simplified. There is no Pamir, Bolor takes its place as regular as though drawn with a ruler at a writing table. Amongst the great principal systems Kara-korum and Transhimalaya (Dzang) are not mentioned, as they were reckoned only as secondary ranges, situated between Kwen-lun and Himalaya. The Khor or Hor range is represented on the map as an apophysis from the Kwen-lun. It may be regarded as an embryonal form of the Kara-korum, which by Humboldt has thus been divided into two separate systems, of which the western is called Karakorum Padishah. This is an early stage in the development of the Kara-korum, as known to European geographers, and with pleasure we forgive Humboldt his mistake! Next to nothing was known about this system in his days. He hardly believed in its existence as will be seen hereafter. It is more curious that some 70 years later that part of the Kara-korum situated between $76\frac{1}{2}$ and 78° E. l. could be called the *Eastern Kara-korum* in the *Geographical Journal*, when all the material brought together since Humboldt's time was available. This is al-

¹ Op. cit. p. 118.