

years. The ambassadors had to follow a special route and were entertained by the Chinese and accompanied by a Chinese guard. They started in June when the Himalayan passes were snow-free and reached Peking next January.

The most important thing in the papers, as Hodgson says, is the enumeration of the mountain ridges or ranges intersecting the road. The two embassies he deals with are the Chountra's in 1817 and the Kaji's in 1822. The morphological sections as given in the Chountra's account are:

	Kos.	Mountain ridges.
1. Cis-himalayan region (Kathmandu to Bhairav langúr)	50	7
2. Trans-Himalayan region (Bhairav langúr to 4 kos beyond Chinchí Shan, where the <i>great</i> mountains cease)	635	65
3. Chinchí Shan to Pouchin (where all mountains cease)	212	30
4. Plains of China (Pouchin to Peking)	353	2
	Total 1 250	104

The explanations given by Hodgson are, partly, of special interest in connection with the Transhimalaya. I give the following quotations:

»The native name of Tibet is Pót vel Bód. The sanskrit name is Bhót. This is Tibet proper or the country between the Himalaya and the Nyenchhen-thánglá, which latter name means (and the meaning is worth quoting for its significance), pass of (to and from) the plains of the great Nyen or Ovis Ammon, or rather, great Ammon pass of the plains. That portion of Tibet which lies north of the Nyenchhen-thánglá (as far as the Kwanleun)¹ is denominated by the Tibetans — the western half, Hóryeul and the eastern half, Sókyeul, after the Hór and Sók tribes respectively. The great lake Namtso demarks Northern Tibet in the same way that the great lake Yamdotso denotes Southern.»

In this passage we again recognize Klaproth and Ritter. If Hodgson had had an occasion to make any reliable and original observations he would have found that the southern half of the country north of Nien-chen-tang-la (in its widest sense) is inhabited exclusively by Tibetan tribes, most of them nomads, only a few settled; the northern half, the western portion of which is supposed to be called Horyul in Tibet, or the country of the Turks, is in reality uninhabited and has never been inhabited, except the northern slopes and valleys of Kwen-lun, where the Taghliks or Turkish »mountaneers» dwell; the eastern half is inhabited by Tsaidam Mongols and Tanguts. The ordinary word by which the Tibetans denominate northern Tibet is Chang-tang, certainly a very old name, meaning the Northern Plains. The Chinese

¹ Kwen-lun.