

stand on the water-parting of the great Kuenlun System, between the Tibetan Plateau-lands in the south and the Turkestan ones north of it.»<sup>1</sup>

In 1853 Hodgson calls the Nien-chen-tang-la a worthy rival of Kwen-lun and Himalaya. Three years later he accepts Humboldt's great Asiatic systems, Altai, Tian-shan, Kwen-lun and Himalaya, without adding Nien-chen-tang-la. In 1853, having read Huc's book, which in orography is very meagre, he combines Nien-chen-tang-la with Tang-la and three years later in the same easy way with Kara-korum.

In the following passage<sup>2</sup> we recognize d'Anville, Turner, Moorcroft, Klaproth, Ritter, Humboldt and the Stracheys, for there is nothing that they have not told us before, in a more detailed way. »Upon the whole, I conceive, there can be no doubt that Tibet proper, that is Tibet south of the Nyénchhen thángrá range, is, as compared with the Himalaya, a level country. It may be very well defined by saying it comprises the basins of the Indus (cum Satlej) and Brahmaputra. In this limited sense of Tibet Gángri is the water-shed of Tibet. — The region of the lakes, Mapham and Lanag, equal to the Manasaróvar and Rávanhrád of Sanskrit geography, is situated around Gángri, where the elevation of the plateau is 15 250 feet. From this region the fall of the plateau to the points where the rivers (Indus and Brahmaputra, or Singkhá-báb and E'ru) quit the plateau, is great, as we sufficiently know from the productions of Balti and of Khám at and around those points. — Tsáng province is said to be bounded on the south by the Ghúngra ridge; on the west by Mount Ghúndalá; on the north and east by the Kámbalá range; the province of U' to be bounded east by Sángwa gyámnda, west by the river Tamchokhamba, south by the Kámbalá range, and north by the Nyénchén thángrá. Beyond the last named great snowy range is situated the immense lake of Nám tsó which is said to bear the same relation to Northern Tibet that the Yámdo tsó lake does to Southern. The former is the Terkiri and Téngri núr of our maps . . .» To which he adds a note: »Núr is Turkic for lake as tsó is Tibetan. Tengri núr, or celestial lake of the former tongue, is an exact translation of Nám tsó of the latter. The general prevalence of Turkic words in the geography of Northern Tibet more especially sufficiently evinces the presence of that wide spread tribe in Tibet.»

Hodgson knew only one geographical name north of Nien-chen-tangla, namely, Tengri-nor. This he calls »the general prevalence of Turkic words», and concludes on the same ground that »Northern Tibet» is populated by Turki tribes. But *tengri* and *nur* are Mongolian words and cannot prove that the Turkis are present in Northern Tibet. The name Tengri-nor is unknown in Tibet and used only by Mongolian pilgrims. Even such names as Arka-tagh, Piaslik, and Achik-köl, which belong to the Kwen-lun, do not, though really Turki, prove the settled presence of Turki tribes, for they are given by gold-diggers and hunters who occasionally come

<sup>1</sup> Die Erdkunde von Asien, II, Berlin 1833, p. 636. Compare also Humboldt, L'Asie Centrale German Edition, Berlin 1844, Vol. I, p. 100.

<sup>2</sup> Op. cit. p. 483.