

and Kongra Lama before the visit I am about to describe, although the country has been open to travellers during at least half the intervening period.»<sup>1</sup>

In his famous book on Ladak Sir ALEXANDER CUNNINGHAM has not much to say of our system, and what he says only regards its western part. Of Chang-tang he says that it »comprises the two districts of Chumurti and Garo on the Indus, but its extent to the eastward is unknown».<sup>2</sup>

He regards the Bara-Lacha chain as the continuation of the true Himalaya, and he proposes the following names: Mid-Himalaya and Outer or Sub-Himalaya. Beyond the Himalaya he finds at least 3 distinct ranges which he calls Trans-Himalaya, the Chushal, and the Karakoram or Trans-Tibetan chains. He adds: »These names are by no means intended to supersede any that may now exist, but only as descriptive appellations of extensive mountain-ranges which at present have no general names.»

His Trans-Tibetan range is the same as the Bolor and Kara-korum which further east »probably» merges into the Kwen-lun. At the same time it is the northern boundary of the Tibetans. For this unfortunate view he finds some support in Humboldt's *Cosmos*.

Of the Gangri range he says; »The Kailás, or Gangri range, runs through the midst of western Tibet, along the right bank of the Indus, to the junction of the Shayok. Neither Moorcroft nor Vigne has given any name to this range, though both of them crossed it several times, and in different places. I have ventured to call it the Kailás, or Gangri range, because those names are equally celebrated by the Hindus and Tibetans. Kailás or 'Ice-mountain', is the Indian Olympus, the abode of Siva and the celestials. Gang-ri, or 'Ice-mountain', is called Ri-gyal, or King of Mountains, by the Tibetans, who look upon Ti-se, or the Kailás Peak, as the highest mountain in the world. The Trans-Himálayan range divides the head-waters of the Sutluj from those of the Indus, and extends to the western limits of Rongdo and Astor.»

Cunningham's Trans-Himalaya is a part of Himalaya itself, and therefore the name is *a priori* absurd. One could as well call Berner Oberland the Trans-Alps. The Trans-Alai is not a part of Alai, it is altogether another system. Trans-Tibetan is also a very unfortunate appellation. For Bolor was just disappearing and Kara-korum is a part of Tibet from a physico-geographical point of view. His name Trans-Himalaya seems never to have been popular.

To draw the Kailas or Gangri range all the way to the junction of the Indus and Shayok is of course wrong for its north-western continuation goes north of the Shayok. On the other hand Cunningham is right in saying that nothing whatever is known, 1854, of the eastern continuation of the Kara-korum. He could have said the same of the eastern continuation of the Kailas range, but he has not a word

<sup>1</sup> Journal Asiatic Society Bengal, Vol. XL. P. II. 1871, p. 367 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> Ladák, . . . with notices of the surrounding countries. London 1854, p. 40.