

CHAPTER XVII.

THE EXPLORATION OF TENGRI-NOR IN 1871—72.

In MONTGOMERIE's report on the journey of the Pundit 1871—72 we are told from where the Shang-chu comes. This tributary was known to the Chinese, although its course is very incorrect on the Ta-ch'ing map and on d'Anville's. BOGLE had travelled up the valley as far as to Namling. Montgomerie's Pundit crossed the whole mountain system between Tsangpo and Tengri-nor and was able to follow the river up to what seems to be its very source.

He entered Ngari-khorsum from Kumaon and travelled from Manasarovar to Shigatse where he arrived on November 24th 1871. The report does not contain anything about this route, probably because nothing was added to the observations already made by the earlier native explorers.

On December 7th, 1871, the Pundit crossed the Tsangpo on a raft and camped on the northern bank in a village called Peting.¹ After 4 days he reached Dongdotlo, a village on the right bank of the Shang-chu (Shiang Chu). Of Namling, which is also on the right bank, he says there is a large monastery, with about 500 Lamas; the monastery is on a high hill, it is a place of some importance, boasting of an iron bridge over the river, and commanded by a strongly situated fort, which is the residence of the Jongpon, or Governor, with about 500 Tibetan soldiers; Namling itself has about 200 houses, surrounded by gardens, with a small bazaar in the centre. On the 27th of December he reached Naikor, beyond which there was no more cultivation; only Dogpá nomads, live in the high region. At Chutang Cháká there were some 15 hot springs of 166° F. So far the valley was called Shiang Lungba, and from here to the north Lahú Lungba. »On the right bank of the Lahú Chu River, there is a large stony place about 120 paces in length, from which about a dozen columns of hot water issue; these rise to a height of forty or fifty feet, and produce so much steam that the sky is quite darkened with it; the noise, moreover, was so great that they could not hear one another speaking; the water of these jets was found to be 176° F. Similar jets of water were noticed issuing from the middle of the river, shooting up to forty or fifty feet in height, and evidently at much the same temperature as those on land, as they produced clouds of steam,

¹ »Narrative of an Exploration of the Namcho, or Tengri Núr Lake, in Great Tibet, made by a Native Explorer, during 1871—72.» Drawn up by Lieut. Colonel T. G. Montgomerie, . . . Journal Royal Geogr. Society. Vol. 45. 1875, p. 315 et seq.