

Cunningham must be pardoned for extending the name Kailas or Gangri to a wrong range. HENRY STRACHEY had not made the same mistake. In this connection it may be interesting to remember what Henry Strachey has to say of the real Gangri range, — not the wrong one as in Cunningham's case.

Strachey had not much occasion to come into contact with our system, but he got some glimpses of it from the lakes. From his first camp, north of the pass Lánkpya Dhúra he could see »through the opening northward a glimpse of distant blue mountains, part of the Gángri range perhaps, on the north side of the Sutlej».¹ From Láma Choktan he makes the following observation: »The north-western horizon is bounded by the Gángri range of mountains moderately tipped with snow (2nd October), and remarkable for the deep purple-blue color of their inferior rocky parts; and about the middle of this range rises the snow-capped Peak of Kailás, somewhat higher than the rest of the line. I do not believe these mountains are nearly so lofty as the main ranges of the Indian Himálaya.» From Rakas-tal he could see the outlet valley running westwards as far as his eye reached and the Gangri mountains he saw stretching north-westward for some 30 miles. »The Gángri range continued also far to the eastward, rising out of a wide green plain, which extended between the base of the mountains . . .» He gives a good description of the Kailas as he saw it from afar, and makes it 21 000 feet high. »The openings on both sides of Kailás disclose only more mountains in the rear . . .» As he suspected, and even saw other mountains in the north-east, the view he further on expresses is the more curious. For he says:²

»The Gángri range of mountains subsides at Tankcham-Tarjum the next east from Sámo-tókchim. Hor Tol is Jang-tang, i. e., untilled pasture ground, and belongs to the province of Gnari, subject to the Garpun of Gartokh. Beyond Hor Tol, eastward, lies the district of Tosher, by some pronounced Doshel, also Jang-tang; it is subject to the Zungpun of Sáku Zúng, or Sáka, which is the centre of the province next east of Gnari . . . The Gangri mountains subside about Maryum La; probably the La itself is a terminating spur of the Gangri range; beyond that, eastward, extends table-land with smaller, more irregular and detached hills, all the way to Lhasa, and as far as informant knows to the northward.»

Thus Strachey regarded the Maryum-la as the eastern boundary pillar of the Gangri range, instead of its being a transverse threshold in a longitudinal valley or a connecting link between two mountain systems. His informant alone is responsible for the table-land with small detached hills all the way to Lhasa and so far northwards as was known, — instead of one of the most compact mountain systems in the world. Strachey's informant had certainly travelled in the Tsangpo valley, from where one really can get the impression of a high and steep edge of a table-land

¹ Narrative of a Journey to Cho Iagan etc. — in September and October 1846. Journal Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. XVII, Part II, 1848, p. 140.

² Ibidem, p. 327, 328 and 330.