

fatigue des animaux.» It is to be observed that he calls the range a meridional one, which can be right only for a very short portion of the Nien-chen-tang-la.

Regarding this range we are not informed of much beyond what was known from Bonvalot's journey.

»Tandis que Dutreuil de Rhins se dirigeait sur Nag-tchou par le chemin direct, je me mis en devoir d'accompagner le grand lama jusqu'au pied du Dam-La-rkang la. C'était là une légère faveur qui n'avait pas été obtenu sans peine ni sans risquer de remettre tout en question; mais nous y avons tenu enfin de pouvoir relier par un point, très précis notre itinéraire à celui de M. Bonvalot. Je campai le soir au point extrême atteint par ce dernier voyageur.»

Richthofen had the impression that Dam-largen-la was reached by Bonvalot. It is not, however, quite clear from the two French narratives whether the pass itself was reached, in which case a few words should have been said about the view to the S.E. At any rate both touched on the same route the Nian tsin tang ra as Grenard calls the range on his sketch map.¹

The country crossed by ST. GEORGE R. LITTLEDALE in company with his wife and Mr. W. A. L. FLETCHER is very much like those parts of eastern Tibet which were crossed by Bonvalot, Dutreuil de Rhins and myself. Rockhill travelled through a more accentuated part further east. I will here give some extracts from Littledale's account as being characteristic for the plateau-land of eastern Tibet.²

He left Cherchen on April 12th 1895, went up the Cherchen-darya and then turned south near 87° East. long. He crossed the Tokus-davan and Arka-tagh, where a peak was measured to 25 339 feet, whereas the height of the Arka-tagh pass is not given. Then he finds himself on the »Tibetan plateau proper» which »has, in its northern part especially, a very small rainfall, and in the absence of rivers the drainage of the country finds its way into one or other of the innumerable lakes, which, having no outlet, are salt. Except in the volcanic country, the valleys are broad and open.» Regarding the orography he never saw, from Arka-tagh southwards »a single continuous mountain range till we came to the Ninchen-tangla, south of the Tengri-nor». But he saw unconnected successions of short ridges and peaks. A succession of rather low passes were crossed; in 35°40' one had a height of 17 092 feet, in 35°10' one had 17 201, another in 34°40' 17 079, the next, in 34°35' 17 176 and finally one in 34°30' 17 473 feet. »Between 36°50' and 33°50' N. lat. our path lay through a very volcanic region, numerous undoubted volcanoes being visible. South of 33°50' I did not notice any, till three months later we passed the conspicuous volcano Tongo.»

On June 26th, at lat. 33°12' and long. 88°12' he first came under the influence of the S.W. monsoon and in the same region met the first Tibetans. Then he crossed the following passes: at 33°50' one of 19 348 feet, at 33°40' one of 17 574, at 33°20' another of 17 953 and a fourth of 17 021 feet. Between 33° N

¹ Op. cit. p. 215.

² Geographical Journal, May 1896, Vol. VII. p. 453 et seq.