

and Selling-tso he had no pass reaching 17 000 feet. »We were everlastingly crossing from one lake basin to another, but as we got south the gradients became less steep than what we had met with further north.»

After Tchudun-tso near the N.W. corner of Nam-tso »we crossed», as Littledale says, »a low pass, and then came in sight of the Tengri-Nor, locally known by the name of Nam-Tso . . . On the south it was fringed by the magnificent range of the Ninchen-Tangla; — a succession of snow-clad peaks and glaciers, partially hidden in clouds of vapour, which added to their size and grandeur, while above all towered with cliffs of appalling steepness the great peak of Charemaru 24 153 feet . . .¹ In the Lama survey map of Tibet, published 1733, there is a mountain marked Chimuran, in very much the same position as Charemaru; the similarity of the names can hardly be accidental.»

»A deep rapid river» running into the lake from the W.S.W. was crossed. From here the way went up to the Goring La, 19 587 feet high. The road down to the south seems to have been difficult as he had to cross a glacier or »go down a glacier» full of crevasses. At 30°12'12" was the last camp.

It is curious that all travellers, from the Pundits to Littledale and DE LESDAIN have so very little to say of the Nien-chen-tang-la, and nothing at all of the Trans-himalaya as a system. Not one of the travellers who have crossed or been in contact with this enormous mountain system has made the slightest attempt to make use of the poor material existing and draw out some general conclusions from it. Everything that has been done in this direction has been tried by geographers who have never been in the country, Ritter, Humboldt, Hodgson, Saunders, Markham, Reclus and Richthofen. Those who have not been in Tibet have been more far-sighted and perspicacious than the explorers themselves, who, from what they had seen with their own eyes ought to have had ampler occasion to generalize. But there is not a word of the sort in their narratives.

Littledale could, during his admirable expedition, have added a good deal, if he had not been in a hurry. For he says: »For the greater portion of the way from Zilling Tso to Ladak, our route lay to the south of that taken by Nain Sing, Captain Bower's, of course, being north of that again. We wished to have kept about 60 miles further south and traversed the Dokthol province, but feared being delayed had we done so.»

Littledale wisely felt that it was a *desideratum* of exploration to cross the »Dokthol» province which was quite unknown. But it had to remain unexplored for some twelve years more. I regard it as very doubtful whether Littledale, if he had tried, would have been allowed to march through what Nain Sing called Dokthol. At least I tried in vain to do so in 1901. Under no conditions would the Tibetans allow me to take the southern route.

¹ On Grenard's little sketch map the highest peak has 23 452 feet, obviously the same as Littledale's Charemaru.