

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### THE LATEST DISCUSSION ABOUT THE TRANSHIMALAYA.

It seems as if a supernatural mystery had kept the Transhimalaya under its spell. Even of those parts near Tengri-nor which have been crossed or visited by a few travellers extremely little is known. Of the passes which have been crossed we hardly know anything more than their names and their heights. Of the general orography extremely little has been reported, and of the geology nothing. Of the whole system, west of Khalamba-la nothing was known, except the edge, so far as it could be seen from the route of Nain Sing and Ryder and Rawling.

In another chapter, regarding the tributaries and source of the Tsangpo, and the sacred lake, I have dealt with Ryder's and Rawling's expedition and its beautiful results.<sup>1</sup> Let us now consider the parts of the publications of Ryder and Rawling which, directly or indirectly, have to do with the Transhimalaya.

RYDER fixed many peaks north and east of Lhasa »including some fine snow-peaks south of the Tengri-nor, mentioned by Mr. Littledale, the highest of which was 23 250 feet in height, and the highest peak we ever came across north of the Tsangpo. Two other snow-peaks which I fixed are, I believe, those mentioned by M. Bonvalot, and christened by him Mount Huc and Mount Gabet; but their heights were disappointing, the highest being 21 500 feet.<sup>2</sup> The following magnificent survey results were brought home: »Triangulation: An area of 45 000 square miles was completed, connecting Lhasa with India, and fixing all prominent peaks which were visible, with their heights. Topography: An area of 17 000 miles was surveyed on the scale of 4 miles to the inch, of which 3 000 square miles, in the neighbourhood of the Chumbi valley, Gyantse, and Lhasa, were also surveyed on the scale of 2 miles to the inch. Route surveys, on the scale of 1 inch to the mile, were made of the road to Lhasa.»

It is obvious that such a far-reaching work should sweep the whole southern front of the Transhimalaya. And already the observation of Ryder that no high

<sup>1</sup> Vide Vol. II, p. 130 et seq. and 243 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> Major C. H. D. Ryder: »Exploration and survey with the Tibet frontier commission, and from Gyantse to Simla viâ Gartok.» Geographical Journal, October 1905, Vol. XXVI, p. 369 et seq.