

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### THE NAME OF THE MOUNTAINS NORTH OF THE TSANGPO.

Ever since the old Capuchin Missionaries were speaking of the *Montes nivosi* they had seen to the north from Kamba-la, there has been much confusion about which name should be given to the mountains situated immediately north of the Tsangpo—*Montes nivosi* could be regarded as a literal translation of the Tibetan *Gangri* or *Mountains of eternal snow* and this name has for a long time been popular.

Then came d'Anville's map of 1733 with a series of different names for different sections of the system, namely from east to west: Youc M, Larkin M, Tchmouran M, Coïran MM, Tancla M, Tarcou MM, Tchompa M, Roncla M, Tomdson M, Lop M, Pancla M, Tachial radsong M, Kel M, Samia M, Kialtchou onclou M, Poupou taclac M, Tintang M, Toulsatelou M, Tchour M, Dsoumoukion M, Soureng M, Mouron M, Yala M, Tacra concla M, Kentaisse M, Patchon M, Latatsi MM, and others. None of these names, except perhaps Tchmouran and Coïran, and, of course, Kentaisse, have enjoyed any sort of popularity. Most of them are even now impossible to identify with any degree of certainty.

In the preceding chapters we have made acquaintance with all the other names which, at different epochs, have been more or less *en vogue*. Such names are Dzang, Zzang, Ninchen-tangla, Gang-dis-ri, Gangri and Kailas. Klaproth acquainted Europe with the names Gang-dis-ri, Dzang and Nien-tsin-tangla-gangri, which were adopted by Ritter. Humboldt wrote Zzang. Du Halde calls Western Transhimalaya Kante-chan, probably a corruption of Kentaisse, itself a corruption of Kailasa.

English geographers never mention the names introduced by the great German scholars. Markham says:<sup>1</sup> »The great Northern Chain of the Himalayan system, called the Karakorum Range in its western section, is here (at Tengri-nor) known as the Ninjinthangla or Nyenchhen-tang-la Mountains . . . To the westward it commences at the famous central peak or knot called Kailas . . . The name given to the eastern section of this most northern of the ranges by Mr. Brian Hodgson is Nyenchhen-tang-la; and the same name is referred by the explorer of 1872 to one of the peaks. Mr. Trelawney Saunders has proposed as the name of this range,

<sup>1</sup> Narratives of the Missions of George Bogle etc. London 1879, second edition, p. XXIV.