

CHAPTER XXVI.

MY FIRST JOURNEY ACROSS THE TRANSHIMALAYA.

In Vol. III of this work I have given a description of my eight crossings of the *Transhimalayan System*, only one of which, in the Western part of the system, was approximately known from the exploration of one of the Pundits. This description, however, was written before the panoramas had been put together and arranged in chronological order. The panoramas have, therefore, not been discussed in connection with my description of the roads taken and the mountains explored. I have, therefore, and for the sake of completeness, to return to the eight crossings once more with the chief object of making as much use as possible of the sketches of landscapes.

Nor did I enter, in the first description, the distances between the several camps and the absolute altitudes of all of them. These figures as well as the rates of slopes are of great importance for the clear understanding of the morphology of the highlands. As reference has been made to them through all the preceding chapters of this volume, they should not be missing in those parts of my journey which fall within the boundaries of the *Transhimalaya* and which embrace the most important part of my last expedition. The following chapters, dealing with the *Transhimalaya*, will, therefore, have to be regarded as an addition to Chapters XXIX—XLIV of Vol. III, though, of course, the present part, which has nothing to do with rivers, roads, names and many other items, will be much shorter.

Finally the map to the scale of 1:1,000,000 constructed and drawn by Colonel H. Byström, has not been completed until lately. This map affords us an excellent general view of the whole *Transhimalayan System*, as Colonel Byström has combined and compared my original maps with the panoramas and did his best to follow the stretchings of the different mountain ranges. This is also one of the reasons why we have to return to the *Transhimalaya* once more. We should not forget that the central parts of the *Transhimalayan System* were a *terra incognita* before my journey. Only a few of the highest *Lunpo-gangri* Peaks had been seen from the south by members of Ryder's Expedition, and ranges belonging to the same system had been seen from the north by Nain Sing. The rest of our information