

CHAPTER II.

MIRZA HAIDAR.

We have dealt with MIRZA HAIDAR'S invasion of Tibet in Vol. I, p. 70 *et seq.* Here we have to return to his description of the mountains between Eastern Turkestan and India. The geography of Mirza Haidar has been thoroughly discussed by R. B. SHAW¹, of whose passages NEY ELIAS says:

They contain translated extracts from Mirza Haidar's opinions, which are fully and accurately elucidated by Mr. Shaw, according to modern knowledge of the subject and local information.»² And again: »When in Yarkand and Kashghar in 1874—75, Mr. Shaw had with him, if I remember rightly, a copy of the *Tarikh-i-Rashidi*, and was thus able to criticise it on the spot with the help of native informants.»³

Mirza Haidar gives a quite excellent definition of the mountainous regions which very nearly correspond to the Chinese signification *Ts'ung-ling*. For the sake of comparison, I enter here the most important passages of his physical geography and orography:

Balur is an infidel country (*Káfiristán*), and most of its inhabitants are mountaineers Its whole extent consists of mountains, valleys, and defiles, insomuch that one might almost say that in the whole of *Baluristán*, not one *farsákh* of level ground is to be met with.⁴

In the description of the mountains of *Moghulistán* and *Káshghar*, it was stated that the principal range in *Moghulistán*, from which all the other hills branch out, passes the north of *Káshghar*, runs towards the west, and continues to the south of *Káshghar*. It was also mentioned that the province of *Farghána* lies to the west of *Káshghar*, this range running between. [This part of the range] which lies between *Káshghar* and *Farghána*, is called *Alái*. — *Badakhshan* is on the west of *Yarkand*. These countries are also divided by [a part of] this same range, which here takes the name of *Pámir*. The width of the *Pámir*, in some places, is eight days' journey. Passing onwards, one comes to some of the *Yárkand* mountains which adjoin *Balur*, such as *Ráskám* and *Tágh Dum*

¹ *A Prince of Kashgar on the Geography of Eastern Turkestan.* *Journ. Roy. Geogr. Society.* Vol. XLVI. 1876, p. 277, *et seq.*

² N. Elias and E. Denison Ross: *A History of the Moghuls of Central Asia being the Tarikh-i-Rashidi of Mirza Muhammed Haidar, Dughlát.* Re-issue. London 1898, p. VIII.

³ *Loc. cit.*, p. 296n.

⁴ *Op. cit.*, p. 384 and 385.