

CHAPTER VI.

THEVENOT, KIRCHER AND OTHERS.

Geographers in Europe continued to use the common classical names for our mountains, though the modern names Naugracot and Dalangver and even Kwen-lun also appeared in several geographical books. Two or three quotations may be sufficient. Speaking of the Seres, PETER HEYLYN says:

Finally, These and they of Zagataie are the most honourable people of the Tartars, indifferentlie civill, lovers of arts, both mechanicall and civill, and inhabiting diverse faire Citties. The chiefs are 1 Caraian, where the women vse to guild their teeth, 2 Tebeth, famous for her abundance in Corall. 3 Cambalu The principall riuers of this Country (India) are, 1. Indus, the boundary of the Persian and Indian Empires: which hauing his head in the mountaine Caucasus, now called Naugrariot; etc.¹

ADAM OLEARIUS has the following passage:

Sablustan lieget ferner nach Osten, dessen Einwohner beym Curtio Paropannisadae seynd genennet worden, nemblich von dem herumliegenden sehr hohen Gebirge, welches ein Theil vom Taurus ist und Paropamisus genandt worden, ist mit vielen Höltzungen umgeben.²

When THEVENOT mentions the mountains of Kwen-lun, one at first wonders whether he really had any knowledge of the gigantic system to the north of the Kara-korum, but one soon finds that he means the original old Chinese Kwen-lun. Speaking of the Yang-tse, he tells us that this river has several names;³ the first is Minkiang, a name which it got from the Min-mountains, »where it has its source». These mountains, in the western-most part of Suchuen, stretch far to the west, so far as to Sifan or the country of Priester John. — »Le fleuve d'Hoang doit estre mis le second; je le nomme saffrané ou jaune Voicy comment les Chinois le décrivent. Le fleuve d'Hoang prend sa source d'un lac entre les montagnes de Quenlun qui sont au Midy; ceux du pays appellent ce lac Otunlao Ce fleuve est donc le deuxieme de la Haute Asie Pour moy i'estime que les montagnes de Quenlun

¹ Peter Heylyn: ΜΙΚΡΟ 'ΚΟΣΜΟΣ. *A Little Description of the Great World*. Third Edition. Oxford 1627, p. 659 and 665.

² *Vermehrte Neue Beschreibung den Muscowitischen und Persischen Reyse etc.* Schleszwig MDCLVI, p. 548.

³ *Relations de divers voyages curieux* Paris 1666, p. 19.