

jours à Kacheguer petite Ville, qui a esté autrefois la demeure du Roy de Kacheguer, au lieu que c'est à present Jourcend qui est un peu plus vers le Septentrion, & a dix journées de Kacheguer. Ils ajoûtoient que de la Ville de Kacheguer à Katay il n'y a pas plus de deux mois de chemin; qu'il y va tous les ans de Caravanes qui raportent de toutes les sortes de marchandises que j'ai dit, & qui passent en Perse par l'Usbek, comme il y en a d'autres qui de Katay passent à Patna dans l'Hindoustan. Ils ajoûtoient encore que de Kacheguer pour aller à Katay, il falloit gagner une Ville qui est à huit journées de Coten, qui est la dernière Ville du Royaume de Kacheguer; que les chemins de Kachemire à Kacheguer sont fort difficiles; qu'il y a entre-autres un endroit où dans quelque temps que ce soit il faut marcher environ un quart de lieue sur la glace.

He adds that this is all he could get out of the ignorant people. The route in question seems to have gone over Skardo and Shigar before it turned to the east, probably across the Kara-korum Pass. The »grande forest» may possibly be Chong-jangal, which means »great forest». Fifteen days to Kashgar, may simply be Karghalik or any other place in the kingdom of Kashgar. Bernier has obviously misunderstood his informants, as he places Yarkand north of Kashgar. The place between Kashmir and Kashgar, where one had to pass for a quarter of a lieue on ice, may be Saser-davan or the Kumdan Glaciers. The description is too meagre to let us draw any reliable conclusions, and I am perfectly aware that it also covers Younghusband's western road over the Mus-tagh Pass, which is reported to have been easier to cross in olden days.

Still the narrative of Bernier is of great interest as being the first reliable information regarding the road across the Kara-korum Mountains. Although his journey to Kashmir was accomplished nearly a hundred years after MONSERRATE'S, his results cannot be compared with those of the latter. Monserrate is a more intelligent observer, and he has even been able to represent the N. W. Himalaya on a very good map. On the other hand, Bernier did his very best, by means of native information, to penetrate the mysterious mountain country to the north-east.

His map of the rivers of northern India is less correct than the one of Ptolemy, although, of course, he has many names easy to recognize. He calls the Himalaya, Caucase M. and directly north of this range of mountains, he has Zagathay, Tartarie and Turquestan, the last-mentioned far to the east; but there is no trace of Tibet at all. The whole highland between the Himalayas and the Kwen-lun is represented by only one single mountain range, which is the same view as in the case of PTOLEMY and STRAHLENBERG.¹

But on a small map,² *Carte Nouvelle du Royaume de Kachemire*, Pl. V, Bernier has, due east of Kashmir, »Petit Thibet Royau.» and to the N. E., »Kaskar Royau.» Kashmir is represented as a valley, surrounded on all sides by mountains,

¹ Bernier's maps in the edition of 1699 are the same as the ones first published in 1670.

² Op. cit., p. 268.