

CHAPTER XVIII.

KLAPROTH.

In previous volumes of this work I have often had occasion to mention the magnificent way in which J. KLAPROTH, the great German scholar, has contributed to Europe's knowledge of the geography of Central Asia.¹

He has formed an epoch in the history of the scientific study of everything regarding Tibet, especially by the information he brought together from Chinese sources, and there is hardly a single problem of geographical importance, to which he has not contributed in a prominent way. He was the first to prove the existence of a mountain system north of the Tsangpo. He furnished RITTER, HUMBOLDT and other geographers with reliable material, and thus created a solid frame to an understanding, both of the orography and the hydrography of High Asia. He constructed the best map of Central Asia and Tibet which had ever been made since D'ANVILLE'S days a hundred years earlier, and which did not become antiquated for some 40 or 50 years.²

¹ In Vol. I, p. 82 I quoted the edition of the *Foë Kouë Ki* published by Abel-Rémusat and J. Klaproth; p. 83 Klaproth's discussion of the old Chinese-Japanese map of Asia and India; p. 88 his translation and edition of the *Wei-tsang-t'u-chih*; p. 90 the Chinese map of Tibet translated and published in 1830; p. 92 his Memoir on the Tsangpo; p. 95, his translation and description of the Hsi-tsang; p. 110 his translation from the Great Imp. Geography regarding the Manasarovar and Kailas; Vol. II, p. 60, his views regarding Tieffenthaler's map, p. 69, his hand-drawn map of the Sacred Lake and the sources of the great rivers, 1820; p. 268, I have a comparison between Klaproth and Desideri and Beligatti; p. 278, his views regarding the Tsangpo-Brahmaputra problem; Vol. III, p. 34, his views regarding the Transhimalayan regions and several maps of Klaproth, amongst which a part of his map of 1836 is discussed; p. 88, the part he has played in relation to the geography of Central-Asia in general. In Vol. VIII, in connection with the Chinese conception of the geography he occupies a prominent place. In some of the following chapters of the present volume his name will often be mentioned as it is also met with at many other places of this work, not particularly quoted in this note.

² Speaking of the Development of sinological studies in Europe, RICHTHOFEN has the following words about KLAPROTH:

Ein Deutscher und ein Franzose, Klaproth und Abel-Rémusat, sind als die Begründer der neuen Richtung zu betrachten. Sie standen auf den Schultern der Gelehrtenschule, welche um die Zeit des Wechsels des Jahrhunderts mit Leistungen von nicht geringer Wichtigkeit hervorgetreten war. Ueber Klaproth's Gedächtnis haben sich wegen der Mängel seines Charakters in den letzten Jahren tiefe Schatten gelegt; an Umfang und Gründlichkeit des Wissens, wie an Fähigkeit zu grossartiger und