

He divides Tibet into Upper, Middle and Little Tibet, extending east and west between Lhasa and Gilgit.

From Skardo he crossed the Indus and entered the Shighur, travelling up the valley and crossing the Shighur on rafts. Here he made the following observations:<sup>1</sup> »Two long valleys join the waters of their respective streams at the head of the valley of Shighur, of which that on the left, as we ascend, is merely a continuation, and is called Basha. That on the right is Brahaldo, and is continued to the foot of the Muztak, which is reached on foot in about eight or ten days.» He marched only a short distance in it, but was informed by Dr. FALCONER that he ascended it for several days, in the hope of reaching the foot of the Muztak, »but finding the distance and difficulty far greater than he had expected, he returned, across a steep mountain-pass, to the castle of Shighur».

He got some interesting information about the old Mus-tagh road to Yarkand: »The path down the Muztak is one of the best ways to Yarkand, and was formerly much used by saudagurs, or merchants, in their journeys, to and from Kashmir.» Russian merchants were said formerly to arrive at Kashmir, after passing up the valley of the Oxus, »whence they must either have crossed the Plain of Pamir and joined the regular road via Yarkund and Ladak, or that by the Muztak and Iskardo, or have crossed the Mustoj pass, from Issar, and arrived at Kashmir via Chitral, Gilghit, Husára, and Gurys; which latter is by far the most probable, as it is the nearest road for them».

Vigne also brought back the first reliable knowledge of the great Kara-korum glaciers: »the glory of the valley is the magnificent glacier at the end of it. Its lower extremity is a short distance from the village of Arindo, and the natives say that it is slowly but perceptibly advancing. It occupies the entire valley as far as the eye can reach.... The width of the lofty wall of ice, in which it terminates towards Arindo, is about a quarter of a mile.» He was surprised to see not a brook but a great river emerging from beneath the glacier, and he could not explain this great quantity of water in any other way than »that a lake or reservoir must exist at its upper extremity».

Not far from the foot of the glacier was a defile »and on the summit of the defile is another glacier, over which, with two or three days scrambling, and being fastened together by ropes, there is a way to the valley of Nagyr». He meditated an excursion over the Muztak to Nagar, Pamir and Kokan, but want of time prevented him from carrying out this plan. He heard, however, that with kulis it should take 8 days to reach the plains of Pamir, from which he believed Badakshan could be reached in 10 days and Yarkand in less time, *viâ* the Sir-i-Kol.

<sup>1</sup> Op. cit., p. 283.