

the Shia persuasion. They speak a dialect of the Tibetan language, but have nothing of the Tibetan literature. They keep some books or fragments in Persian. The correspondence from Ladak with the chiefs of those parts, is carried on in Persian, as also with Cashmir. The people of Beltistan are very unhappy on account of their chiefs having continual quarrels with each other, or with the prince of Ladak. The climate is warm. In the lower part of Beltistan, snow never falls. The soil is good. There are several sorts of excellent fruits; as of apples, pears, peaches, plums, figs, grapes, mulberries etc. etc. There is great want of salt and wool in those parts. Formerly there existed a commercial route of 30 days' journey from Cashmir to Yarkand through Beltistan, but that country being in an unsettled state, the Cashmirian merchants afterwards preferred that through Lé in Ladak, although it is very circuitous.

This description from native sources is interesting as it dates from a period only a few years before the occupation of Ladak by Gulab Sing's general Zorawar, which took place in 1834—1840, whilst the conquest of Baltistan followed in 1841. The old trade road across the Kara-korum and Baltistan is also mentioned. It was abandoned on account of raids of robbing bands, not on account of ice and snow. Therefore, the safer road of the Kara-korum Pass was chosen by the merchants between Kashmir and Yarkand. In connection with these roads one would have expected to find a few words of the great Kara-korum glaciers, but there is nothing about them. Nor are they mentioned under the heading Glaciers: »The summits of many of the Tibetan mountains remain through the whole year covered with snow. But there are especially four glaciers or mountains covered with ice or frozen snow; as Tisé, Havo, Shampo, and Pulé.»

Gold and other metals as well as fossils are mentioned as follows:

Mines. — Mines are rarely excavated in Tibet. In the northern part of Nari, and in Gugé, some gold dust is gathered, as also in Zanskar and Beltistan it is washed from the rivers. If they knew how to work mines, they might find in many places gold, copper, iron and lead.

Petrifactions are found at many places in Tibet, especially in Naru. On the 2d and 3d range of the Himalaya mountains, there are several sorts of them. Salgrams and shells are found most frequently, in many places. All such petrifactions are denominated in Tibetan, according to the resemblance they have to things; as sheep-eye, sheep-horn, sheep-brain, swine-brain, swine-head, bird-leg, cow-tongue, stone-trumpet etc. They are not objects of reverence in Tibet, neither of curiosity. Some of them, after being burnt and reduced to powder, are used as medicaments in certain diseases.

The following distinction between the highland deserts and the cultivable ground is good:

In middle Tibet and Ladak the mountains are in general naked, destitute of herb, grass and every vegetable. In the valleys, where the fields can be watered or irrigated, several kinds of corn are produced, especially wheat, barley, buckwheat, millet, pease, and some others. In Nari and in the northern deserts of Tibet, there grow several kinds of medical herbs and plants, and there are likewise good pastures; but there are in the deserts no fields for producing corn, and what they want they purchase from those who