

»Khotan, in Chinese Yu-tien and Khotien, is the name of a little country in Eastern Turkestan, which, in the south, borders upon the Tibetan steppes, in the north upon the districts of the cities Kucha, Saïram and others»

His information regarding the Nan-shan or Southern Mountains is, however, in contradiction to the above statement, for he says: »There is also another range called the Southern Mountains, namely the one forming the southern boundary of Eastern Turkestan separating the dominion of Khotan from Tibet.»¹

When at about the same time, the Swedish diplomat Baron C. d'OHSSON published his memorable History of the Mongols, he was perfectly aware of the fact that Tibet was a very vast country full of high mountains, but he was not in a position to control the report given to Chingis Khan in 1223 regarding »thick forests» covering this country.² D'Ohsson says:

Au printemps de l'année 1223, Tchinguiz-khan résolut de retourner en Mongolie, par l'Inde et le Tubbet L'armée prit la route du Tubbet; mais au bout de quelques journées elle reçut contreordre. On reconnut toutes les difficultés qu'elle aurait à vaincre pour traverser une vaste contrée, hérissée de hautes montagnes et couverte d'épaisses forêts. Tchinguiz-khan retourna à Peschavour, pour gagner la route qui l'avait conduit en Perse.

In spite of MIR IZZET ULLAH'S and a few Russians' and Orientals' journeys across the Kara-korum Pass, this road across the whole mass of mountains between India and Eastern Turkestan remained very little known even to geographers. Both north and south of the mountains many Europeans heard of it, even from BERNIER'S and DESIDERI'S time. From 1839 dates a very short notice about it picked up at Orenburg by General GENS:

Aus Kaschgar giebt es einen geraden Weg nach Kaschmir. Er beträgt 28 Tage-reisen, geht über Klein-Tübet und Gross-Tübet, ist aber wegen der hohen und felsigen Berge sehr beschwerlich über welche man 6 Tage zu Fusse gehen muss. (Der Armenier Mehdi Rafailoff legte diesen Weg dennoch zu Pferde zurück.)³

On his journey to Kabul in 1836—38 Sir ALEXANDER BURNES had no opportunity to get more detailed news regarding this road than he had obtained on his previous journey. He only indirectly mentions it when saying: »Native

¹ Исторія Тибета и Хухунора Переведена съ Китайскаго Монахомъ Іакинфомъ Вичуринимъ. Часть II, Санктпетербургъ, 1833, p. 232 and 254. — A very nice little map illustrates this work though it embraces only the northern half of Eastern Tibet, including Koko-nor and the lakes at the sources of the Hwang-ho.

² *Histoire des Mongols, depuis Tchinguiz-Khan jusqu'à Timour Bey ou Tamerlan*; par M. le Baron C. d'Ohsson. Tome premier. La Haye et Amsterdam, 1834, p. 318. — Dr. J. CHARPENTIER shows that Mr. CURTIN'S book: *The Mongols, A History*. London 1907, provided with an enthusiastic preface by the late President ROOSEVELT, from beginning to end is a shameless plagiarism of d'Ohsson's work (*Vilhelms av Ruysbroeck Resa genom Asien 1253—1255*. Stockholm 1919, p. 7).

³ *Nachrichten über Chiwa, Buchara, Chokand und den nordwestlichen Theil des chinesischen Staates*, gesammelt von dem Präsidenten der asiat. Grenz-Comp. in Orenburg General Major Gens, bearbeitet von Gr. v. Helmersen (*Beiträge zur Kenntniss des Russischen Reiches*, II). St. Petersburg 1839, p. 98.