

## CHAPTER XXV.

### THE VERACITY OF HUC.—LASSEN.

The famous names of HUC and GABET have just been mentioned. In Vol. III, p. 158, I have discussed their journey in so far as it is in contact with the Trans-himalaya. Here, therefore, only a few words need to be added.

Huc always has his eyes open for the inhabitants and tells all his personal experiences, but very seldom has anything of geographical value to say. Only as a matter of small importance he sometimes mentions the mountains of Tibet. Thus he says: *Le Tibet, presque entièrement recouvert de montagnes et sillonné de torrents impétueux, fournit à ses habitants peu de terre cultivable; il n'est guère que les vallées qu'on puisse ensemer avec quelque espérance d'avoir une moisson à recueillir.* — We should not forget that Huc in speaking of Tibet, only means the southern parts of that country, from the district where inhabitants begin to appear, *i. e.* from Nakchu.<sup>1</sup>

He speaks of the deserts of Tartary when travelling westwards and tells us that he had no other means to determine his whereabouts than a compass and the map of the Chinese Empire drawn by Andriveau Goujon.

*Samdadchiemba n'était pas plus instruit que nous des routes de la Tartarie. Nous nous enfonçâmes dans les déserts, ayant pour seuls guides une boussole et l'excellente carte de l'empire chinois de l'Atlas de M. Andriveau Goujon.*

Only very shortly Huc describes the most difficult part of his journey, the crossing of the »vast chain of the Tanla Mountains», and the dangers and difficulties associated with it. It had been said that all the sick people of the caravan, amongst others P. Gabet, would die and the strong ones have to endure a hard crisis. After six days' arduous ascent the travellers arrived at the height of »this famous plateau», which was supposed to be the highest place of the globe. »*Nous voyageâmes pendant douze jours sur les hauteurs du Tanla.*» The weather was very good. The descent took four days.

<sup>1</sup> *Voyage dans l'intérieur du Tibet, Relation du séjour à Lha'ssa 1846. Nouv. Annales des voyages, 1849. Tome premier, p. 144.*