

seems to be both bounding range and water-parting, is a question which I have not investigated. But I do not know that this fact invalidates my observations of the Karakoram region.

This is a very honest and correct statement. He had no materials and could not possibly have any views whatever regarding the connection of the Gangri Range. It was certainly only from Saunders' map he had got the impression that the »Gangri Range» was both boundary range and water-parting, which is exactly what it is not. Shaw was too serious an observer in the field to accept as real facts mountains that had been constructed in London.

In a new article, *The Karakoram Mountains*,<sup>1</sup> SAUNDERS would not give up his ground. It is not necessary for his purpose that there should be a coincidence between the culminating summits and the water-parting — inclusive of the Karakorum Pass. He defines the Kara-korum Mountains as the mass which forms the water-parting between Lop and Indus. »Its extremities are found where the water-parting of the Indus ceases to be conterminous with that of Lake Lob.» To the east they continue in the Gangri Mountains, to the west in the Hindu-kush. The absurdity of this definition is easier to see nowadays than it was then. For the northern Kara-korum continues eastwards through the whole of Tibet without having anything whatever to do with the water-partings of Lop-nor and the Indus.

The northern base of the Kara-korum Mountains, Saunders places at the sources of the Yarkand-darya and the Kara-kash, and the southern base is part of the Upper Indus. He agrees that perhaps some people should prefer to regard the range between the lower Shayok and the Indus as a separate system, but he thinks this view is wrong. It was, however, right. He maintains that the whole system should be called the Kara-korum System.

The controversy between Shaw and Saunders could not lead to any satisfactory results as both defended their grounds, and the former was talking of mountains he knew insufficiently, the latter of things he did not know from personal experience.

However, the ideas of Shaw were comprehensive and seducing, and we have seen that many of the great geographers of the time followed him. He denied the existence of a Kara-korum Range, and felt sure that the Kara-korum would never have been called a range had it not been a water-parting between Lop-nor and the Indian Ocean. Only *one* continuous mass of elevated land filled up the space between India and Eastern Turkestan, Himalaya and Kwen-lun being its border ranges. The Tibetan plateaux were sloping to the east and north.

General STRACHEY, PETERMANN, MONTGOMERIE, SEVERTSOFF, RAWLINSON and others agreed with SHAW regarding the Bolor-tagh, Kwen-lun, and Kara-korum

<sup>1</sup> *Geographical Magazine*. Vol. V. 1878, p. 186.