

In 1873—74 FORSYTH carried out his great mission to Yakub Bek, on which he was accompanied by a whole staff of scientifically trained officers, everyone of whom has delivered a report on the important results gained. Most of them have also written independent books.

Already in a letter dated Shahidullah, October 18th, 1873, Forsyth gives a very good and short description of the three different roads between Ladak and Turkestan.¹ The eastern-most goes from Leh over the Chang-la (18,368), touches the Panggong-tso, crosses Marsimik-la (18,540), continues through the Chang-chenmo valley, enters, by a pass 18,800² feet high, the Lingzi-tang and Taldat plains, descends the Kara-kash River to Shahidullah, and is 26 marches long from Leh. It was first explored by the SCHLAGINTWEITS, then surveyed by JOHNSON and in 1868 examined by Dr. CAYLEY for trade purposes. After him came SHAW and HAYWARD. The latter discovered that the Kara-kash comes from Kara-korum, and not from the direction supposed by Johnson. Want of water and fodder makes this route impassable for mules and ponies.

The second route, which leaves the Chang-chenmo by a north-western pass, crosses a little part of Lingzi-tang, enters the Upper Kara-kash, joins the Kara-korum route at Ak-tagh; it was discovered by Hayward, and surveyed by Dr. Cayley. The pass leading out of the Chang-chenmo is somewhat steep: this is either the Chang-lung-yogma, which I took in 1906, or some other pass in its immediate vicinity. This route is two marches shorter than the first one and three marches longer than the Kara-korum route.

Regarding this latter, which Forsyth a few years earlier had hoped could be avoided on the eastern route, he now says it is the easiest between Leh and Yarkand. The difficulty is in the passes one has to cross in summer but avoids in winter. The summer route traverses the Kardong-la and Saser with its difficult glaciers. During 11 days one does not touch inhabited country, but on the eastern road during 20 days. Forsyth recommends the Kara-korum route.

He also speaks of the »Kurmada» (Kumdan) glaciers, and the sublime view from »Gepshan» (Yapchan), but is not quite clear on this point. Of these glaciers Forsyth says: »From Brungtsa, Sasser, we marched ten miles to Kumda-hán, and camped in a hollow between two great glaciers, one of which extends away to the westward for some thirty miles, and looks like a great river of snow, flowing down from a lofty snowpeak through a narrow valley, flanked by high hills; the other corner straight down, about six miles, at right angles to the Shayok bed, which it

¹ *Proceedings Royal Geographical Society*, Vol. XVIII. 1873—74, p. 111.

² Or 5,731 m. I found the Chang-lung-yogma to be 5,780 m. The latter must be situated very near Forsyth's pass, as was also stated to me by an old man amongst my servants who had accompanied Forsyth. According to Trotter Forsyth, however, travelled by Chang-lung-yogma.