

in der früher angenommenen Erstreckung nicht existiere. Wir haben oben erläutert, inwiefern wir dagegen berechtigt sind, nach dem jetzigen Stande unserer Kenntniss von einem Karakorum-Gebiet zu sprechen.

Thus Petermann prefers the term Kara-korum *Region* to the term Kara-korum-*Range*.

Petermann has a generally very clear and correct conception of the extension of the plains situated between the Kara-korum and Kwen-lun. In the western parts, where the two systems approach very closely to each other, these plains are, of course, very narrow, and at the sharp bend of the Yarkand River they seem totally to disappear. The farther east, on the other hand, the broader and more extensive the plateau plains become.

Petermann's excellent map, Pl. LXII, is worthy of the text.¹ It gives an excellent idea of the mountain systems between Kashmir and Eastern Turkestan, a representation which was absolutely up to date in 1877 and could be improved only in detail by subsequent travellers. Only the Pamirs still left much to be desired. To the eastern edge of the map or to 82° East. long., the northern system is called Western Kwen-lun, which is a great improvement over HAYWARD'S proposal to make the transverse valley of the Kara-kash a boundary between Western and Eastern Kwen-lun.

The middle system is called Mustagh to 77° East. long. and its eastern continuation, Kara-korum Mountains. Curiously enough he places the name Himalaya north-east of the Indus and even the lower Shayok, a view which has been changed during later years.

It does not in the least diminish the geographical importance of FORSYTH'S Missions to Kashgar, that their chief object was of a political nature.² As such, however, they had as a consequence the Russian Mission in 1876—77, under command of Colonel A. N. KUROPATKIN, 26 years later Generalissimus in the war with Japan. He was not the first Russian to visit Kashgar. In 1859 Lieutenant VALIKHANOFF had been there in disguise. In 1868 Captain REINTAL had visited the town as an Ambassador, and in 1872 Baron KAULBARS had been sent in Embassy to Yakub Bek. A year before Kuropatkin's journey, Reintal had been on a second mission to Kashgar.

In May, 1876, General VON KAUFFMANN appointed an Embassy to Yakub Bek, with the object of opening negotiations with the »Bedaulet«, relating to the re-arrangement of the boundary line between his possessions and the Khanate of

¹ *Das Pamir Plateau und die angrenzenden Theile des Himálaya, Thian-Schan, Hindu-Kusch &c. Übersicht von D. Forsyth's Expedition nach Kaschgar 1874 und aller übrigen Reisen in demselben Gebiete*, von A. Petermann. Gotha, Justus Perthes 1877.

² This was at any rate the case with his second visit. Of the first the *Punjab Administration Report*, 1870—71, p. 10, says: »His visit was in no sense a mission and had no political objects.« The second expedition was always called a Mission in the narratives describing it.