

and Afghanistan, but he has never been north of the Kabul Daria, nor yet beyond the Indus.»

But this is no argument against Rawlinson's criticism and Veniukoff himself feels that he moves on uncertain ground, for he expresses finally as a desideratum: »Let us hope that these places will not long remain unknown, and that our subsequent knowledge of the geography of the Bolor will not be based on hypotheses and surmises, but on accurate data.» It was the accurate data which were completely missing when this famous areopague of learned geographers were discussing the experiences of an Asiatic Münchhausen.

In a paper: *On Trade Routes between Turkestan and India*, Sir HENRY RAWLINSON brought forward some more information in the dark matter.<sup>1</sup> He says that the geography of the Pamir Steppe had been confused and mystified beyond all conception by a very singular network of ingenious forgery or romance.

It certainly was the case that both English and Russian geographers had had to contend for many years past, with a fabulous system of geography in reference to these regions. There was a certain paper in the archives of the Russian Government which had been followed by all Russian geographers; and a certain voluminous document was also in the archives of the British Government, which many years ago had been submitted to the elder Mr. Arrowsmith, and served as the foundation of that part of his map of Central Asia, which had been considered as a standard authority. Both these documents were utter forgeries; the product of the ingenious imagination of a clever man — a man well acquainted with the subject, but who invented the Itineraries and actually extemporised a system of geography.

After the paper, Lord STRANGFORD gave some more detail on the examination of the documents and of the strange rôle KLAPROTH seems to have played in the matter.<sup>2</sup>

In a very learned article: *Papers connected with the Upper Oxus Regions*, and especially in part 3 of the same: *Notes regarding Bolor, and some other Names in the Apocryphal Geography of the Upper Oxus*,<sup>3</sup> Sir HENRY YULE says:

In the middle of last century the Jesuit Fathers, D'Arocha and others, who followed in the wake of the Chinese conquest of Eastern Turkestan, brought back with them a number of latitudes and longitudes, which, till recently, formed the chief basis of the geography of that part of Asia. These were of very various value, and embraced not only cities of the Turkestan basin, such as Khotan, Kashgar, Yarkand, etc. but also a number of places either in the heart of the mountains or beyond them to the westward. Thus to the north-west we find (with positions assigned) Andijan, Marghilan, Namegan, Kokan, &c., and to the south-west Sarikol, Karchu, Wakhan, Shighnan, Roshan, Badakhshan, and lastly, Pooeul or Bolor.

Yule found that a systematic *bouleversement* had affected a large part of the Jesuits' survey. »True names were there, such as Wakhân, Badakhshân, Shignân,

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings Royal Geographical Society*. Vol. XIII, Session 1868—69, p. 10 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibidem* p. 20.

<sup>3</sup> *Journal Royal Geographical Society*. Vol. XLII. 1872, p. 438 and p. 473 *et seq.*