

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

### DIFFERENT VIEWS REGARDING KARA-KORUM IN THE YEARS 1871—1880.

In this chapter I have brought together some different views regarding our mountain system as expressed chiefly by British geographers in the decade from 1871 to 1880. As several of them are mere theories and hypotheses not always founded on the result of modern exploration, they are of no high value, but still they are of great interest as attempts to approach the truth, and a short reference to them should not be missing in an historical account.

As usual T. G. MONTGOMERIE is the leading name of the period. He is the most penetrating and perspicacious of all, and nobody has in the same high degree as he the gift of combination. In his brilliant article: *Report of The Mirza's Exploration from Caubul to Kashgar*, he speaks of the Kara-korum at a few places.<sup>1</sup>

Already at the beginning of his article Montgomerie expresses the opinion that the Hindu-kush, Mustagh and Kara-korum may be considered as a continuation of the great Himalayan System, a conception that is only partly correct, as the Mustagh—Kara-korum constitutes a quite independent mountain system.

The MIRZA'S route afforded Montgomerie a means to determine the great watershed »which separates Eastern Turkistan from the basins of the Indus and the Oxus, viz., the Pamir-kul Lake, which comes between the Mustagh Pass and the Sirikul Lake of Wood«. The Mustagh Pass was the most westerly point actually on the watershed determined by Montgomerie's survey operations. The new determination confirmed the opinion that he had held for many years, that the watershed continued to run N. W. from the Mustagh. To this conclusion he had come from the positions of many gigantic peaks fixed by the survey to the N. W. of the Mustagh. He did not believe that these peaks were situated on the watershed itself, but felt convinced that they indicated its general direction, as is indeed the case.

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<sup>1</sup> *Journal Roy. Geo. Soc.* Vol. 41. 1871, p. 132 *et seq.*