

In our days only the southern and northern boundary systems are really well known, especially Himalaya. Richthofen gathered one of the principal features of Tibet when he showed that also the interior of Tibet was filled up by tremendous ranges, although hidden to a very great extent by deposits. So much of the ranges however, crop up from these beds of deposits that the general stretching of the ranges may be followed. The plateaux of Northern and Central Tibet grow smaller and smaller the more the interior of the country becomes known.

Richthofen drew up the principal lines of the geography of Central Asia in a systematic way. The representation he gave of the orography proved that HUMBOLDT'S System had to be abandoned on several points. At present many parts of Richthofen's own system have proved to be wrong, although the great features and the physico-geographical laws, which nobody has understood and interpreted better than he, will always remain, for they are eternal physical laws. And Richthofen's own name remains unrivalled in the history of Asiatic exploration.

In his *China*, Dritter Band, published by Professor ERNST TIESSEN, Berlin 1912, seven years after the author's death, Richthofen has brought together everything that was known of the geology of High Asia until 1896. From the Kara-korum he had only Stoliczka and Forsyth to quote.¹

In this third volume of his great work, Richthofen points out that at the time when he wrote his first volume, reliable information regarding the geology of Central Asia had only been brought back by PUMPELLY from Eastern Mongolia and by STOLICZKA from the west on a transverse line from Himalaya over Kashgar to the southern ranges of Tian-shan. The next step was taken 20 degrees farther east by LÓCZY in 1878. Then followed the important investigations of BOGDANOVITCH in the mountain ranges which to the south and west border the Tarim Basin. The next explorers are OBRUTCHEFF, POTANIN, GRUM-GRSHIMAILO and other Russians such as KOSLOFF and ROBOROVSKIY. The English and French explorers who in audacious campaigns have crossed Tibet, have not pursued any geological aims.²

The same formation, namely carbon, that Stoliczka had determined north of the Sanju Pass in 1874, was found by BOGDANOVITCH in Tekelik-tag south of Khotan and in the Tisnaf Basin south of Yarkand. The *Gryphaea* (-Mergil) discovered by Stoliczka on the way from Sanju to Yarkand was later on recognized to be eocaen. Marine Trias in alpine facies had been found south of Western Kwen-lun and west of Kisil-yart in the Pamirs. In both regions these discoveries were made by Stoliczka. S. E. of Kara-korum middle, brown Jura has been determined from the upper reaches of Kara-kash.

¹ *Vide supra* Vol. III, p. 202 *et seq.*

² *Op. cit.*, p. 314.