

CHAPTER XXXVI.

NIKOLAI MIKHAILOVITCH PRSHEVALSKIY.

During fifteen years, 1870—1885, the Russian General PRSHEVALSKIY carried out his four memorable journeys which indeed opened a new era of Asiatic exploration. The regions he visited are situated east and north of the Kara-korum System, but his geographical and orographical discoveries are of such great importance for the conception of the Tibetan Highlands in general, that his name should not be missing in this account of travels and exploration. I will, therefore, mention a few of his most important contributions to our present map of Tibet.¹

Petermann's Mittheilungen, 1876,² contain a very good and scientifically condensed extract of the first volume of Prshevalskiy's narrative, embracing the results of his geographical discoveries and scientific observations. The value of this extract is highly increased by a beautiful map of PETERMANN, where the routes of some other travellers also are entered, *viz.* SHISHMAREFF 1864—1868, DAVID 1866, FRITSCHÉ 1868—1872, RICHTHOFEN 1868—1870 and 1872, MATUSOVSKIY 1870, NEY ELIAS 1872, BUSHELL 1872, and SOSNOVSKIY 1875.

After having reached the Koko-nor on October 13th, 1872, Prshevalskiy crossed the two South Koko-nor Ranges, and the river Bayan-gol of Tsaidam. South of Tsaidam he found the range Burkhan Buddha, 200 versts in length, and traversed it in a pass of 15,300 feet. Crossing the Nomokhon-gol he reached the high plateau-land stretching all the way to Tang-la. Then followed the Shuga Range, and south of it, the Shuga-gol. Some 100 versts farther S. W. he reached the Bayan-khara-ula, on the left side of the Murui-ussu or Blue River. He, therefore, regarded this range as a watershed between the Blue and Yellow Rivers, and gave its length at 700 versts, which was, of course, very conjectural. In the west it was called Koko-shili,

¹ In 1891 I published in Swedish an abridged translation of his journeys: *General Prschewalskij's forskningsresor i Central-Asien*, with a preface of Baron A. E. NORDENSKIÖLD, 455 pp. and a map. — In my *Scientific Results*, Stockholm 1907, I have a chapter on Prshevalskiy. Vol. IV, p. 447 *et seq.*

² *Die Mongolei und das Land der Tanguten, Oberst-Lieutenant Przewalsky's Reisen 1870—1873.* Bd. 22, pp. 7, 94 and 164.