

CHAPTER XLII.

A—K—, BONVALOT, ROCKHILL, AND OTHER TRAVELLERS IN THE EAST.

A few words have to be said of the travellers who in the latter half and towards the end of the 19th century crossed the eastern continuation of the Northern Kara-korum, *i. e.* the Tang-la System, famous ever since HUC'S days.

In Vol. III I have already mentioned the celebrated Pundit A—K—, or KRISHNA and his journey 1878—1882 when he crossed the eastern part of the Nien-chen-tang-la in the Shang-shung Pass. The highest pass he crossed was on the Tang-la Range or Dang-la as he calls it, being 16,400 feet high and constituting the water-parting between the upper basins of the Yang-tse-kiang and the Mekong.¹ On the map the Tang-la Range runs, just south of 33° North. lat., nearly due eastward to 97° East long. or the vicinity of the Di-chu River. This is just south of Kegudo where Dutreuil de Rhins was murdered some 13 years later.

In August 1881 the travellers left Sachu, and retracing their footsteps crossed the continuation of the Kuen Lun range by a more easterly route than that they had previously taken, and found themselves on the Tibetan plateau, close by the sources of the Hoang-ho, which were afterwards visited by Prshevalsky on his last journey in 1884-85. They crossed the Ma-chu, as the upper waters of the Hoang Ho are here called, and travelled southwards by a lonely, uninhabited route leading across the Di-chu or Upper Yang-tse-kiang to Kegudo, which is a place of trade.²

A—K—S journey is one of the most brilliant ever undertaken in these regions. However, the geographical facts he brought back were meager and not always reliable.

¹ *Four years' Journeyings through Great Tibet, by one of the Trans-Himalayan Explorers of the Survey of India.* By General J. T. Walker. *Proceedings Roy. Geogr. Soc.* Vol. VII, 1885, p. 65 *et seq.*, illustrated by a good map. — A key-map to the map of A—K—s journey is to be found in *Gen. Rep. on the Oper. of the Survey of India Departement 1882—83.* Prepared under the direction of Colonel G. C. De Pree. Calcutta 1884, p. 40.

² *A memoir on the Indian Surveys, 1875—1890;* by Charles E. D. Black. London 1891, p. 154.