

CHAPTER XLIII.

NOVITSKIY, NEVE AND STEIN.

For our purpose it would be utterly superfluous to mention every European traveller who has crossed the Kara-korum Pass in recent years. This road is now a well beaten track, one of the highroads of Asia. I will only mention Captain H. BOWER who in *A trip to Turkistan*¹ describes the journey he undertook with Major CUMBERLAND and in company with the already mentioned DAUVERGNE. They crossed the Kardong-la, found the Saser-la to be 17,800 feet, and the Kara-korum Pass 18,550 feet. From Shahidullah they went down the Kara-kash River, which had to be forded twice, while the tributary Togri-su was crossed only once. Then they took the road over the Kilian-davan. Near Ak-masjid they met PIEV-TSOFF'S expedition. Farther on they proceeded to Kotal-i-Kandahar, Taghdumbash and the Hunserab Pass. On his journey BOWER met GROMBTCHEVSKIY and his companion CONRAD, as well as YOUNGHUSBAND.

I will also mention the journey of Colonel V. F. NOVITSKIY who in 1898 on his way from India to Fergana crossed our mountains.² He took the ordinary road from Srinagar over Kargil to Leh and thence turned north on well-known roads. His narrative does not contain anything that is of geographical importance, but some of his observations are not without interest, and he describes the road in detail.

June 24th (old st.) he left Leh and took the Kardung Pass or Laoychi, which he gives an altitude of 17,570 feet. Then he passed Nubra, Changlung and the Lasket Pass (15,200 feet). He does not make any clear distinction between the different ranges of these high regions, as he says:³ »I shall call this vast mountainous country the Karakoram Highland, after the name of the highest pass, which crosses

¹ *Geographical Journal*. March 1895. Vol. V, p. 240 *et seq.*

² *Изъ Индіи въ Фергану*. (*Description of a journey undertaken in 1898 from Panjob through Kashmir, Ladak, the Karakorum Mountains, Raskem and Kashgar to Russian Turkestan*.) Зануски Имн. Русск. Геогр. Общ. Томъ XXXVIII, Но. 1. С.-Петербургъ, 1903. Under the same title the lecture held before the Imp. Society, August 7th 1899, is printed in the *Извѣстія*, Томъ XXXV, 1899, p. 147 *et seq.*

³ *Op. cit.*, p. 115.