

alluvial fans of detritus . . . . But the most dismal ground was still before us when, after a week of long marches from where we had left the Polur-Lanak-la route, we reached a large salt lake which an Indian Survey party appears to have sighted more than forty years ago, but which has now been reduced to the state of a salt-marsh for the most part dry. Marching round it to the north-west, we entered a series of basins absolutely sterile, and showing in their centre a succession of salt-encrusted dry lagoons.

Then he struck Habibullah's route, forgotten since 40 years. Sept. 18th he emerged in the valley of an eastern feeder of the Kara-kash. Then he had to trace Habibullah's route up to the point where it crossed the main Kwen-lun Range towards Karangu-tagh. A line of cairns running up a side valley showed where the pass would have to be looked for. But advancing masses of ice and snow had obliterated all trace of the old route at the head of the valley. Stein's observations in this region would make it likely that the precipitation has augmented during the last 40 years. Such irregularities of a periodical nature are by no means surprising and may easily be traced in other parts of High Asia.

Then Stein ascended one of the great glaciers coming down from the main range towards the Nissa valley, explored in 1906. Finally he went down the Kara-kash valley. His return journey Stein took over the Kara-korum Pass, which he gives a height of 18,687 feet, and the Saser Pass. He had to follow the Murgho defilé, as the Kumdan route was closed in 1908.<sup>1</sup> On October 7th he crossed the Saser Pass.

In the following pages I will only just mention a few publications and journeys which more or less intimately touch upon the Kara-korum System.

In his articles *Les récentes publications sur Lhassa et le Tibet*<sup>2</sup> and *Nouvelles publications sur le Tibet*,<sup>3</sup> J. DENIKER has given a very good summary of journeys and books which had just appeared. Amongst those mentioned we specially note such which were in connection with the British raid into Tibet under YOUNGHUSBAND.

In the same Journal FRÉDÉRIC LEMOINE has a review: *Autour de l'Afghanistan par le Kara-korum et le petit Tibet, par M. le commandant de Lacoste*.<sup>4</sup> LACOSTE travelled from Meshhed to Sari-kol, and continued from Tash-kurghan to Yarkand which he reached August 7th, 1906. The journey proceeded to Karghalik, Bora, Kilyang, Kilyang-davan to which he gives a height of 5,260 m., Suget-davan (5,380 m.), Kara-korum Pass (5,510 m.), Dapsang (5,390 m.), Saser-la (5,365 m.), Khardong-la (5,390 m.), and finally Leh where he arrived on September 15th, 1906.

About the same time DAVID FRASER got the following impression of the Kara-korum Pass:

<sup>1</sup> *Ruins of Desert Cathay*. London 1912. Vol. II, p. 486. In this important book Stein has given a detailed description of his discoveries and his exploration in the Kwen-lun.

<sup>2</sup> *La Géographie*. Tome XIII, 1906, p. 103 *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> *La Géographie*. Tome XV, 1907, p. 345.

<sup>4</sup> *La Géographie*. Tome XVI, 1907, p. 67 *et seq.*