

CHAPTER L.

T. G. LONGSTAFF AND ARTHUR NEVE.

To the most valuable expeditions in the glacier world of the High Kara-korums belongs that undertaken in 1909 by Dr. T. G. LONGSTAFF together with Dr. ARTHUR NEVE and Lieut. A. M. SLINGSBY. About the objects of this journey Longstaff says:

»Between Younghusband's Muztagh Pass and the Karakoram pass on the Leh-Yarkand trade-route, a distance of 100 miles as the crow flies, we have no record of any passage across the main axis of elevation having ever been effected by an European. There are, however, traditions relating to an old route known as the Saltoro Pass, and it was the elucidation of this latter problem at which I aimed last year.»¹

He mentions an area amongst these mountains roughly measuring a degree in each direction, into which no traveller had ever penetrated and which never had been surveyed. It is situated east of 77° E. and north of $35^{\circ} 30'$ N. and it is bounded to the south by the labours of the G. T. S., to the east by the headwaters of the Yarkand River, explored by HAYWARD, to the north by Raskam, and to the west by YOUNGHUSBAND'S discoveries around the glacier sources of the Oprang River in 1889. In 1835 VIGNE had attempted to find the Saltoro Pass, of which he had heard from the natives. He went 5 miles up the Saltoro or Bilafond Glacier. In 1848 HENRY STRACHEY went 2 miles up the Siachen Glacier from which the Nubra River takes its rise. It was this *terra incognita* that Longstaff made his goal, and where he and his party made important conquests for the knowledge of the physical geography of the Kara-korum.

It would take us too far to follow their wanderings step by step. I will only make a few extracts from LONGSTAFF'S narrative.

It was reported that the Saltoro Pass route had been abandoned as soon as the Kara-korum Pass route was rendered safe by the intervention of the British Raj. But Longstaff could not accept this explanation as the desuetude into which many

¹ *Glacier Exploration in the Eastern Karakoram. Geographical Journal.* June 1910. Vol. XXXV, p. 622 *et seq.*