

20,000 ft.». July 23rd: »At two o'clock we reached a point at least 23,000 ft. above sea-level». If they had continued they would have been forced to spend a night »on the exposed ridge probably at an altitude of 24,000 ft.», so they decided to descend the southern slope of a ridge, which, for a thousand feet, was performed on an avalanche. July 24th they had to descend several rock gullies before they could walk up the glacier. The bivouac this night, on the upper part of the glacier, was at an altitude which in their opinion was over 23,000 ft. And he adds: »It is interesting to note that this is in any case the highest spot at which any one has ever attempted to pass the night.»<sup>1</sup>

During the night of July 25th, they continued and were stopped by a crevass at an altitude, »which may have been over 24,000 ft.». They vertical distance from the top he estimates of 1,500 ft., so the edge of the crevass cannot have been *over* 24,000, as the height of the Gurla is 25,350 ft. He says:<sup>2</sup> »It really does not matter what the exact altitude was». But it would have been of value to know of what kind of rock the highest mountain in Tibet is built. STRACHEY gave us some very interesting communications from as near as he was able to approach the Gurlamandata. And I approached the mountain in the mouths of two of its northern valleys, as has been related in Vol. II, p. 157.

Dr. Longstaff is right in giving the highest praise to the STRACHEYS' map, illustrating their journey of 1846, 1848 and 1849.<sup>3</sup> He says<sup>4</sup> that this map gives a more correct representation of the Gurla group than that contained in the latest sheets of the G. Trig. Survey transfrontier series. »The huge southern glacier does not exist as shown in the latter. This locality lies well to the south of Major Ryder's recent survey; in fact, we were the first to see this side of the mountain, though the northern glaciers are plainly visible from the neighbourhood of Mansarowar Lake.»

I cannot judge in this matter as I have never been to the southern side of Gurla. The map of the Stracheys, mentioned above, has two glaciers on the southern side of Gurla. My preliminary map<sup>5</sup> relied for these parts on RYDER'S map, and therefore a huge glacier is entered. This will have to disappear if the STRACHEYS' and

<sup>1</sup> In *Alpine Journal*, August 1906, where the same story is told, the author reminds us of the act that: »in 1864 W. H. Johnson when surveying in Ladak was compelled to pass a night at 22,600 ft.» It is hard to see how Johnson was beaten, as Dr. Longstaff had no instruments to fix his heights. If mountain-climbing shall have any scientific value at all, it is more important to be provided with good instruments than with guides from Switzerland. And if, as in this case, the instruments have been smashed a month earlier, one should desist from climbing. But it is indeed interesting to note that in the modern hunt for records there seems now to have been added a competition about who has *slept* at the highest altitude.

<sup>2</sup> *Alpine Journal*. 1906, p. 224.

<sup>3</sup> *Geographical Journal*. Vol. XV, 1900, p. 204.

<sup>4</sup> *Geographical Journal*. Vol. XXIX, 1907, p. 206.

<sup>5</sup> *Transhimalaya*. Vol. II.