

CHAPTER LXII.

THE RANGES OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN TIBET.

In the preceding chapter we have seen that the Kailas Range of BURRARD, the same that is called Saloro Range by NEVE, is pierced by the Nubra, the Upper Shayok, the old Panggong River and the Singi-kamba or Upper Indus. The Sajum, Jukti-la and Surnge-la belong to it. E. S. E. of the latter the Kailas Range is continued by the Transhimalayan system.

Now the question arises: which is the next crustal fold or mountain system to the east and north, *i. e.* towards the interior of the Tibetan highlands?

I have already mentioned that the comparatively deep depression from Selling-tso to Panggong-tso is bordered to the south by a mountain protuberance marked by ten passes, the mean altitude of which was found to be 5174 m. Obviously these passes do not necessarily belong to one and the same mountain range. On the contrary, there exist between the latitudinal depressions whole systems of more or less parallel ranges, some of them quite insignificant, short and interrupted, others considerable and possessing eternal snow and short glacier tongues. It should also be remembered that the rivers as a rule are older than the mountain ranges, and that the crustal folds have been formed quite independently of river beds. The relations between the Ladak Range and the Indus present a good example of this fact.

Inside or N. E. of the Kailas Range, BURRARD has the Kara-korum Range running S. E., E. S. E. and east, and joining the Nien-chen-tang-la south of the Upper Salwen on 92° East Long. At about 80° East Long. Burrard has sketched both the Kailas and the Kara-korum with dotted lines, as in this region the connection to the S. E. is indeed uncertain.

The same range is called Central Karakoram or Masherbrum-Saser Range by NEVE. On stratigraphical as well as orographical grounds he differentiates the great central granite mass of the Kara-korum from the North Kara-korum which is much younger and largely consists of limestones, emerged from the sea.

This range, the Central Kara-korum, is pierced by the Upper Shayok. Its south-eastern continuation fills up the triangular space between the Shayok, the