

conceived by BURRARD and NEVE, will be easily recognized. In the north we find the Kwen-lun Ranges as they were surveyed chiefly by Russian and later on by a few other travellers. A very great portion of the interior of the Tibetan highland is filled up by the Northern and Central Kara-korum Ranges, the first no doubt in connection with the Tang-la system, the second also continuing far to the east. The most striking new feature of my map is the eastern prolongation of the Saloro or Kailas Range, *viz.*, the Central Transhimalaya, a very broad and complicated system, of which, before my last journey, only a few border ranges and peaks had been seen from a distance. It may be regarded as perfectly certain that the Kara-korum Ranges as we know them in the west diverge E. S. E. and eastwards, and that their continuations cover the whole southern half of Tibet between the Tang-la and the Transhimalaya. A difficult question, which will demand a very thorough and detailed examination in the future, is the way in which the different Kara-korum Ranges run in the region of, and particularly north of, Panggong-tso. For this region seems to be nearly as complicated as the mountains pierced by the middle courses of the Indo-Chinese rivers. Therefore it is superfluous to say that my map (Pl. LXXXIX) is only a new attempt to bring order into the mountain ranges of the highest protuberance of the solid surface of the earth.

In connection with the orography a few words should be said regarding the general levelling of mountains and depressions that has given rise to the present morphology of the great plateauland of Tibet. By the orogenetic folding activity which was at work during the whole Tertiary epoch the chief features of the fold-troughs between the mountain ranges were formed. The very lively atmospheric activity which took place during and after the same enormously long period, gave rise to the precipitation and consequently to the rivers which cut down and excavated the folding troughs deeper and deeper, and pierced the mountains in wild, narrow gorges. This state of things prevailed all over Tibet. The whole country presented the same accentuated sculpture, the same deep-cut valleys between steep or nearly perpendicular mountains as still are found in the wildest and most inaccessible parts of the Himalayas. As compared with the latitudinal valleys the mountain ranges were gigantic, running uninterruptedly through the whole of the country. The gorges were filled with rivers forming rapids and water-falls and joining the main rivers in the latitudinal valleys which all were bound to the ocean or to the interior of the continent. All the debris and the detritus from the mountains and river-beds was carried away by running water.

From cosmic or terrestrial reasons the climate became dry and the precipitation diminished gradually. Therefore, and in connection with the differential movements of the crust, the upper courses of the rivers were cut off, and increasing areas of the highlands were transformed into self-contained basins. The denudation