

CHAPTER VIII.

BRIEF REFERENCES IN LATER WORKS TO THE END OF THE MING DYNASTY.

In the first centuries after the great T'ang dynasty no very valuable descriptions of the *Ts'ung-ling* were added by Chinese geographers. It is no more the question of narratives of different travellers, but of big *collective works* that mostly recapitulate in a condensed form the scattered statements of earlier annals.

1. T'AI-P'ING-HUAN-YÜ-CHI.

It begins with the *T'ai-p'ing-huan-yü-chi* 太平寰宇記, *i. e.* Description of the World from the T'ai-p'ing period (976—983 A. D.), written by Yo SHIH¹ 樂史.

It principally repeats, though often in a changed order, the same things that are to be found in the *Han Annals*, the *Pei-shih* or the *T'ang-shu*.

Book 181, p. 1: The *Ts'ung-fo-ch'iang* (Zi K'iang in North Tibet) live in the east to *Ts'ung-ling*.

P. 9: *Yü-t'ien* (Khotan) is situated more than 200 li north of *Ts'ung-ling*.

P. 10: The *South-river* of the *Ts'ung-ling*, *i. e.* the Khotan-darya, and the *A-nou-ta shan* (Anavatapta Mountain) are mentioned, the latter as the source of the Huang-ho and five other rivers, and regarded as being the same as the *K'un-lun* Mountains; these statements are taken from the *Shui-ching-chu*.

2. MA TUAN-LIN.

The *Wen-hsien-t'ung-k'ao*, *i. e.* Thorough Explications of Literature and Reports of State, is a still larger collection of works. Its author is MA TUAN-LIN 馬端臨 from Po-yang (13th Century), and it goes to the year 1207 A. D. The value of this work was formerly overrated, for the encyclopedia only repeats the principal reports of earlier annals. Again the statement derived from the *Pei-shih*, that *Yü-t'ien* (Khotan) is situated 200 li north of *Ts'ung-ling*, is worth mentioning.

¹ A new print from 1803 has been consulted.