

CHAPTER IX.

THE WORKS OF THE MANCHU PERIOD.

When the reconquest of Central Asia began in the days of the great Manchu emperor KANGHI (1661—1722), interest was awakened in the History and Geography of the Western Countries. Especially the emperor's second successor and grandson KIENLUNG, during whose reign the conquest of *Eastern Turkistan* was completed in 1760 A. D., encouraged historical and geographical research, and he brought extensive works to life, in which the complete knowledge of the Chinese regarding their gigantic empire was collected, and which therefore served as sources to nearly all later descriptions. The following extracts of different reports show us the great importance that was attributed to the *Ts'ung-ling*.

1. THE TA-CH'ING-I-T'UNG-CHIH.

The best-known fundamental work is the *Ta-Ch'ing-i-t'ung-chih*, or Great Geography of the Ta-ch'ing (Manchu) dynasty, which in its first edition appeared as early as in 1743, while the second edition was considerably enlarged in 1764.¹ If we examine the different statements of these works², we find that the name *Ts'ung-ling* is bounded to the mountain passes west of *Kashgar* and *Yarkand*. Such countries as *Sarikol* and *Kanjut* and a lake, *Ulan-köl* or Red Lake, said to be situated west of *Khotan* but impossible to recognize, are here placed in the midst of the *Ts'ung-ling*. For the rest this work derives its historical knowledge of the *Ts'ung-ling* from the *Hsi-yü-t'u-chih*.

2. THE HSI-YÜ-T'U-CHIH.

In the geographical work called *Hsi-yü-t'u-chih* or Description of the Western Countries, with maps, some new contributions are given to the geographical extent of the *Onion mountains*. It was completed during the reign of emperor KIENLUNG (1762 A. D.). From this work IMBAULT-HUART has translated an orographical description of Chinese Turkistan. The following are a few quotations from his translation.³

¹ Cf. Vol. I of the present work, p. 80.

² Book 419, Chapter 2, 3, 4.

³ Recueil de documents sur l'Asie Centrale . . . par CAMILLE IMBAULT-HUART, Paris, 1881, p. 71 et seq. HERRMANN has corrected the orographical names.