

country and perhaps more — down to recent times. In the beginning of 1700 the name was introduced in DELISLE'S maps as being synonymous with the northern *Imaus* of PTOLEMY, and the *Ts'ung-ling* of the Chinese.¹

7. RICHTHOFEN.

FERDINAND VON RICHTHOFEN seems to take the same position as CUNNINGHAM and YULE regarding the situation of *Bolor*, and is thus in opposition to HUMBOLDT.² He also proves that SEVERTSOFF who had accepted the Chinese view of the *Ts'ung-ling*, was wrong when he spoke of the junction of the two systems Tien-shan and Himalaya. Richthofen had shown that the independency of the *Himalaya* ceased where this system meets the *Hindu-kush*. In the same way he shows that the *Kwenlun* is perfectly separated from the *Himalaya*, *Hindu-kush*, *Bolor* and *Tien-shan*.

Richthofen's definition of the *Ts'ung-ling* is much clearer than that of any one of his predecessors. He says that the mountainous country of the *Ts'ung-ling* or »Onion Passes«, begins to the west of *Khan-tengri*, and that these passes are those which lead from the westernmost part of the cul-de-sac of Eastern Turkistan in the N. W., W. and S. W. direction. The *Kara-korum Pass*, the *Pamir passes*, the *Terek-davan*, all are called *Ts'ung-ling* on account of the abundance of onions growing on them. *Ts'ung-ling* is therefore, according to Richthofen, a conventional appellation based on practical life, and is not attached to any especially determined mountain. He compares it with the general application of the name *Muz-tagh* which is used for all sorts of ice-covered mountains, and with the word *Pamir* which may be used for any desolate highland plain.³ At the

¹ In connection with the apocryphal geography YULE has a few words about *Bolor*: »With regard to *Bolor*, I will only state here the conclusion that there is no real evidence for the existence of a state, town, or river called *Bolor* on the western side of *Pamir*, and my opinion, that the name has now become so tainted, first by mistake and next by fiction, that it would be well rigidly to exclude it from geography for the future. — M. SEVERTZOFF'S suggestion that the Chinese name of *Ts'ung-ling* should be adopted by geographers for the mountain mass in question, is well worthy of attention.» —

Yule identifies the *Ts'ung-ling* with the northern *Imaus* of PTOLEMY, and continues: »Several recent travellers and geographers of deserved reputation, insist much that this mountain mass should be regarded merely as a prolongation of the *Himalaya*; and this will probably prove to be a just view as regards physical character, though I am unable to see either that its direction is so truly, as has been urged, that of the *Himalaya*, or, that any one can yet possess absolute knowledge sufficient to pronounce finally an identity of physical character. The fact adduced by Mr. SHAW that certain of the most prominent chains of eminences on this mass appear to run from east to west, which seems to apply especially to the *Kizil-Yart*, or *Trans-Alai* mountains of FEDSCHENKO, might be taken as an argument for a closer relation to the *Tian Shan* than to the *Himalaya*. Indeed, M. SEVERTZOFF, whose remarks on the subject appear to be weightiest, desires to restore to the mass the distinctive name of *Ts'ung-ling*, claiming for it a special character as the convergence of the two systems of *Himalaya* and *Thian Shan*. The divergence of the *Hindu Kush*, I may also remark, which coincides with some changes of direction, be they greater or less, would in itself be a physical feature of importance, marking a boundary between the *Himalaya* and this *Ts'ung-ling*. But independent of geognostic structure, and whatever be the precise direction of the watershed and the culminating ridges of *Ts'ung-ling*, as regards mankind and their history, the *Himalaya* is, and has ever been, a barrier between south and north, the *Ts'ung-ling* a barrier between east and west. The one has been the great division between *Tartary* and *India*, with its influences chiefly religious, the other, the great division between *Western Asia* and *China*, with its influences, chiefly political.» Essay on the Geography of the valley of the Oxus, London 1872, Pl. LV.

² China, I, Berlin 1877, p. 213, note.

³ Op. cit., p. 221.