

## CHAPTER XI.

### CONCLUSION.

When in the first century B. C. the Chinese subdued the nations of the oases of the *Tarim basin*, they called the mountain passages that lead to still farther countries in the west the *Ts'ung-ling*. As a signification of the passages across the *Pamir* this name was adopted in their *Annals of the Han dynasty*. An extended application of the name followed in the 5—7th centuries in the time of the *Northern Dynasties*. Especially mountain ranges situated in the neighbourhood to the west and east were entered in the conception *Ts'ung-ling*. In the north-west the *Ts'ung-ling* thus went as far as to the lower course of the *Jaxartes*, in the west to *Samarkand*, in the south-west it stretched to *Ghazni*, and in the east to the region south of *Khotan* where the mountains, called *Southern mountains*, had so far been separated from the *Ts'ung-ling*. And if we remember that the *Kingdom of Ladies*, which was situated in the Goldland of *Rudok*, was located south of the *Ts'ung-ling*, it becomes obvious that at this epoch the whole *Kara-korum* was regarded as a part of the *Ts'ung-ling*. However, this expansion of the *Ts'ung-ling* does not always seem to be the result of direct observation, but rather of cartographic information.

The extended application of the name appears no more in the time of the *Tang dynasty* (7—9th centuries). The pilgrim HSÜAN-CHUANG who knew the mountains by his own experience, expresses his opinion clearer than anybody else. According to him the *Ts'ung-ling* is bounded on the north by the *Issik-köl* and the *Thousand Springs* of *Aulie-ata*, on the west by *Kunduz* (between *Badakhshan* and *Balkh*), on the south by the *Himalayas*, and on the east by *Yarkand*. Therefore it becomes evident that he excludes not only the mountain regions of *Ghazni*, but also all the ranges south-east of *Yarkand*, amongst them the *Kara-korum*, from his *Ts'ung-ling*. The *Hindu-kush* he regards as being a part of the *Himalayas*.

However, in the *collective works* of later centuries the older conception was again adopted, according to which the mountains south of *Khotan* were a part of the *Ts'ung-ling* which on the north stretched the whole way to the region of *Ili*. This view is particularly clearly developed in the *Geography of the Ming dynasty*.

It was only during the *Manchu dynasty*, where older and later sources regarding the *Ts'ung-ling* were gathered and compared with one another, that the Chinese geographers became aware of the great difference existing between the statements of the *Han dynasty* and those of the later historical works. As a rule the oldest conception was accepted, according to which the *Ts'ung-ling* is bounded to the *Pamir*. But other authors preferred