

Route No. 107.

From KÍDARNATH (Gärhvál) to GANGÓTRI (Gärhvál).

Capt. T. Skinner, in his "Excursion in India", Vol. II., pp. 60, 61, alludes to the existence of a pass which would lead directly from Kídarnath to Gangótri in about four marches.

In September 1855, when I happened to be at Kídarnath, I made frequent inquiries about this route, about which, however, no one knew the least. Nevertheless, as I found many of my people most willing to accompany me, I made an attempt to discover the pass.

From Kídarnath (11,794 ft.) I ascended in two marches the Kídarnath glacier to a height of 15,449 ft., which we found then so much crevassed as to render any further progress quite impossible. If the pass exists at all it must be situated E. of the Sargoróin peak. My brother Adolphe, who, at the time when I made my unsuccessful attempt, was near Gangótri, made also frequent inquiries about this route independent of my own, the result of which tended to prove that no passage exists. The eldest Bráhmans at Gangótri and Múkba did not remember ever to have *seen* any one who was said to have made this direct route, and they believed that no one had ever done so. The rumour current about the possibility of this route arose, as they thought, from the circumstance that efforts had been repeatedly made to discover the passage—but always without success.

The discovery of this pass, so earnestly desired on account of its shortness, would be one of the finest feats a Himálayan traveller could achieve.

The route, now generally taken from Kídarnath to Gangótri is a very long and circuitous one, viz. by Tríjugi Naráin, Bhéti, Barahát, Ráital, Súkhi, and Múkba (see Routes Nos. 232, 24, 15, 17, 172, 210, and 144).

Another road, somewhat shorter, is the following, but it is, except in a few places, impassable

for horses: by Tríjugi Naráin, Mángu, Sálung, Súkhi, and Múkba (see Routes Nos. 232, 62, 135, 181, 210, and 144).

Geographical co-ordinates:

Kídarnath: 30° 45'; 79° 4'; 11,794 ft.
Gangótri: 31° 0'; 78° 56'; 10,319 "

Route

from KÍDARNATH to MÄSSÚRI, *see*
MÄSSÚRI to KÍDARNATH.

Route

from KÍDARNATH to NAINITÁL, *see*
NAINITÁL to KÍDARNATH.

Route

from KÍDARNATH to ÓKIMATH,
see No. 161.

Route

from KÍDARNATH to TRÍJUGI NARÁIN,
see No. 232.

Route No. 108.

From KÍLIAN (Turkistán) to KÁRGALIK (Turkistán).

A principal route, passable for horses, and even for camels. Road good and almost level.

Kílian, a large town.

Hásson Bógra, on a river which flows past the villages Oitokráb and Kōsh, and loses itself in the sand of the desert of Góbi.