

Gaurisáncar, in Nepál, the highest peak of our globe as yet measured, attaining a height of 29,002 ft., Lat. 28°, Long. 86° **गौरीशङ्कर** Sanskr.

Gáuri, *white* or *fair*, is one of the surnames of Pārvāti, the wife of Síva; Sánkar, or Sánkara = Síva, much venerated by the Pándits of Nepál. This name shows a remarkable identity with Chamalhári; Chána = Gáuri; Lha = Síva; but to the Tibetan name *ri*, *mountain*, is added; whilst the Hindus consider it, not a mountain called after Gáuri and Síva, but as one of the forms assumed by them.

The name Gaurisáncar, used for incorporations of Mahadéo and Pārvāti, or personifications of Línga and Yóni, is not unfrequently met with on Indian antiquities. Compare Maisey, Journ. As. Soc. Beng., 1849, p. 190. Its application to geographical objects was, however, as novel to me as unexpected; happily, the name Chamalhári most perfectly, and quite independently, confirms the application of this name to be congenial to Hindu mythology.

In Tibetan this peak is called Chíngo-pā-ma-ri, a word for which I could obtain no explanation. The G. T. S., besides the usual accurate definition by longitude and latitude, gave to it the name Mount Everest, or No. XV. See our Vol. II., Hypsometry, p. 297.

Mr. B. H. Hodgson, who with his well known scientific energy, made numerous inquiries from Darjiling, to ascertain the proper native name of this peak, had the kindness to communicate to me, before I came to Kathmáncu, the following names:—

Nepalese names: Devadunga, Bhairabthan, Bhairablangur.

Tibetan names: Gnalham, Tangla, Gnalham thangla.

In his Papers on the Himálaya mountains and Nepál (Calcutta, Govt. Selections, 1857, XXVII.), he had printed: Nyanam, Dhevadhunga and Bhairablangur (p. 108), as the names then most probable to him.

However, when in the spring of 1857 my visit to Nepál enabled me to direct my telescope, in the presence of Jhang Bahádur and several of his well-informed Pándits to this mountain, which is such a prominent object in most of the views of the Síkkim and Nepál Himálayan crest, they most positively only called it Gaurisáncar, or Chíngo-pā-ma-ri in Tibetan; and when then asked about the other names they had mentioned to Mr. Hodgson, they repeatedly averred that they had not so clearly understood which was the particular mountain meant in the previous questions, alluding to the difficulty of finding the exact peak asked for without any other definition than the latitude and longitude.

Gáya in Bahár, Lat. 24°, Long. 84° **गया** Sanskr.

The name of a saint in whose honour the town received this name, and who is venerated here by the pilgrims. It was Víshnu, who granted the sanctity of the town to the prayers of its dying chief, killed by the deity. Wilson, Dict.

The Mussálmáns call it Sáhíb-gánj.