

tion, and request permission to hold their meetings, next session, in the Theatre of the Government School of Mines, in Jernyn-street. The President finally drew the attention of the Society to the approaching Anniversary Meeting, on Monday, the 25th inst., at one o'clock, when the Annual Address would be delivered, and the Gold Medals for the year awarded to Mr. A. C. Gregory, Commander of the North Australian Expedition, and to Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. Waugh, Surveyor-General of India; and likewise to the Dinner, which would take place at the Freemasons' Tavern, at seven o'clock, when he hoped to see the Chair well supported by the Fellows and their friends.

The papers read were :—

1. *Papers relating to the Himalaya and Mount Everest.*

- A. By Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. WAUGH, Surveyor-General of India, dated Dehra, March 1st, 1856; and  
B. By B. H. HODGSON, Esq., dated Darjiling, Oct. 27th, 1856.

(A.)

SIR,—With my letter No. 99, of 18th December, 1855, I transmitted a Geographical Memorandum on the identification and revision of height of the famous mountain of Dwalagiri, originally measured by Captain W. S. Webbe, and at one time supposed to be the highest mountain in the world, though my operation in 1847 proved Kunchinginga to be much higher.\*

You are aware that the computations of the positions and elevations of all the principal peaks of the stupendous Himalaya, comprising 18½ degrees of longitude, from Assam to the Safed Kho, have been provisionally completed, and I intend to make this subject one of special report for publication.

Previous to publication, however, it is essential that the computations should be scrupulously revised and every refinement of correction introduced. This I do not expect will materially modify the results.

The revision has proceeded to some extent, and I am now in possession of the final values for the peak designated XV in the list in the Office of the Surveyor-General of India.

We have for some years known that this mountain is higher than any other hitherto measured in India, and most probably it is the highest in the whole world.

I was taught by my respected chief and predecessor, Colonel

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\* See Asiatic Researches, vol. xii.

Geo. Everest, to assign to every geographical object its true local or native appellation. I have always scrupulously adhered to this rule, as I have in fact to all other principles laid down by that eminent graduist.

But here is a mountain, most probably the highest in the world, without any local name that we can discover, or whose native appellation, if it have any, will not very likely be ascertained before we are allowed to penetrate into Nepal and to approach close to this stupendous snowy mass.

In the mean time the privilege, as well as the duty, devolves on me to assign to this lofty pinnacle of our globe, a name whereby it may be known among geographers and become a household word among civilized nations.

In virtue of this privilege, in testimony of my affectionate respect for a revered chief, in conformity with what I believe to be the wish of all the Members of the scientific department, over which I have the honour to preside, and to perpetuate the memory of that illustrious master of accurate geographical research, I have determined to name this noble peak of the Himalayas 'Mont Everest.'

The final values of the co-ordinates of geographical position for this mountain are as follows, viz. :—

Mont Everest, or Himalaya Peak XV.

Latitude N.			Longitude E. of Greenwich.			Height above Sea-level.
°	'	"	°	'	"	Feet.
27	59	16.7	86	58	5.9	29,002

As it will be interesting to you to see the independent results for all our observations to this mountain, and to contrast them with those of other celebrated peaks, I herewith append an attested statement of the geographical positions and elevations of Dwalagiri, Mont Everest, Kunchingga, and Choomalari.

You will perceive that the results are all satisfactorily accordant. In the case of Mont Everest the accordance of the independent heights is closer than could have been anticipated, because the mountain, though lofty and massive, is not a sharp well-defined peak and was observed from great distances.

You are at liberty to make use of these results, in anticipation of my forthcoming report on the positions and elevations of all the principal peaks of the Himalaya range.

In justice to my able assistant J. Hennessey, Esq., it is proper to acknowledge, that I am greatly indebted to him for his cordial co-operation in revising these computations.

Geographical Position and Height above Sea-level of certain Points in the Himalaya Mountains.

H. S. signifies Hill Station. T. S., Tower Station.

Intersected Object	Station of Observation.	Latitude N.			Longitude E. of Greenwich.			Height above Sea-level.
		°	'	"	°	'	"	Feet.
Choomalari, or I.	Senchal, H. S. . . . .	27	49	41·5	89	18	43·1	23,946
	Tonglo, H. S. . . . .			41·5			43·1	41
	Mean . . . . .	27	49	41·5	89	18	43·1	23,946
Kunchenginga, or IX.	Doom Dangi, T. S.	27	42	9·5	88	11	26·4	28,151
	Senchal, H. S. . . . .			9·3			26·2	50
	Birch Hill, S. . . . .			9·4			26·2	63
	Thakoorganj, T. S.			9·8			26·7	47
	Tonglo, H. S. . . . .			9·3			26·2	80
	Banderjoola, T. S.			9·2			26·1	42
	Menai, T. S. . . . .			9·2			26·3	72
	Baisi, T. S. . . . .			9·6			26·3	60
Harpoor, T. S. . . . .			9·5			26·3	40	
	Mean . . . . .	27	42	9·4	88	11	26·3	28,156
Mont Everest, or XV.	Doom Dangi, T. S.	27	59	16·5	86	58	5·8	..
	Menai, T. S. . . . .			17·1			6·1	28,990
	Harpoor, T. S. . . . .			16·5			5·7	9,026
	Ladnia, T. S. . . . .			16·7			5·8	8,999
	Janjpati, T. S. . . . .			16·7			6·0	9,002
	Miriapoor, T. S. . . . .			17·0			5·8	9,005
	Jirol, T. S. . . . .			18·7			5·8	8,992
	Mean . . . . .	27	59	16·7	86	58	5·9	29,002
Dwalagiri, or XLII.	Ramnagar, T. S. . . . .	28	41	47·9	83	32	8·8	..
	Morairi, T. S. . . . .			48·1			8·3	26,815
	Banarsi, T. S. . . . .			48·1			8·7	..
	Saoubarsa, T. S. . . . .			47·8			8·9	60
	Peovenah, T. S. . . . .			47·8			8·9	43
	Ghaos, T. S. . . . .			48·2			8·2	6
	Toolsipoor, T. S. . . . .			48·2			8·4	61
	Anarkali, T. S. . . . .			47·8			8·8	..
	Mean . . . . .	28	41	48·0	83	32	8·6	26,826

NOTE.—The longitude is referable to the old value for the Madras Observatory, 86° 17' 21", to which a correction of 3' 25·5" is applicable to reduce to the value adopted by the Admiralty and Royal Astronomical Society, or 3' 18" to reduce to the result of Taylor's observations up to 1845.

(B.)

Sta.—In the report which has just reached me, it is announced that a "nameless" peak, situated north-east of Kathmandu, and in east longitude 87°, had at length been definitely ascertained by our

very able Surveyor-General, Colonel Waugh, to be upwards of 29,000 feet high, and consequently to be the loftiest, yet known, peak of the Himalaya.

Agreeing as I do with Colonel Waugh in the propriety of adopting native names, and cordially sympathising with the sentiment which gave rise to the name Mount Everest, I trust I may be permitted, without offence, to state, in justice to my friends the Nepalese and to myself, who have been so long connected with them, that the mountain in question does *not* lack a native and ascertained name; that that name is Dévadhúnga, Holy hill, or Mons Sacer; and that it is expressly referred to under that name in our Journal. To the paper styled 'Route from Kathmandu to Darjiling,' there is appended a 'Memorandum relative to the seven Cosis.' In the latter occurred the following words: "The Bhotiá Cosi" has its source at Déodhúnga, a vast Himalayan peak situated 60 to 70 miles east of Gosainthán, and which Colonel Waugh conjectures may rival Kunchenginga in height." In the rude sketch map which accompanied that paper, Déodhúnga was set down in the position indicated, and that that position tallies with the site of Mount Everest, is clear from the words above quoted, since "60 to 70 miles east of Gosainthán," answers precisely to east longitude 87°, Gosainthán being in 86° east longitude.

Other indications equally correspond, and at the same time show why such an object could not remain unnamed or unascertained.

Thus Dévadhúnga and Mount Everest are both "about 100 miles N.E. of Kathmandu;" both are midway between Gosainthán and Kangchan; and, lastly, both are by their position and by the absence of any like mass of snow in all the intervals between those peaks, identifiable with the so-called Kútighát, or the great *Gata*, which annually for half the year is closed by Winter upon the Eastern highway of Nepalese commerce and intercourse with Tibet and China.

A few words more may be given to this last point, as being the matter which chiefly fixed my attention, as a political officer in Nepal, on the site of Mount Everest, and enabled me at once, when I heard in after years surmises of the great height of a peak in that direction, to fix on Dévadhúnga, or Bhaśravthán (both names are used) as being the "enormous snow mass" in question; and I have often of late repeated this here, very recently to Mr. Blanford. Round the shoulder of Dévadhúnga runs, as above intimated, the great Eastern highway (the western being round the shoulder of Gosainthán) of the merchants and envoys of Nepal proceeding to Lássa and Pekin; and this passage along the shoulder of the huge

snowy mass of Dévadhúnga is denominated the Kutighát by the Hindoos and the people of the plains of India, as the passage round the huge snowy mass of Gosainthán is denominated by them the Kérung, or Western Ghát. But Kúti and Kérung are names of towns; the one situated considerably within, and the other considerably beyond, the respective gháts; and, moreover, the word ghát is never used by the highlanders (Parbattias) of Nepal for a snow-pass. Their word is " langúr," and the especial langúr in question is named Bhaírava langúr, or the pass of Bhaírava, just as the mass above it, is called Bhaíravthán, or abode of Bhaírava: Bhaírava being the terrific form of the God Siva. Every merchant and statesman at Kathmandu talks familiarly of the Bhaírav langúr, owing to its formidable character, its obstructiveness (it bars the road to the North for half the year), and its strange contrast with that very extensive and very level tract of country in Tibet, called the Tingrí Maidan, on which the Bhaírav langúr immediately opens. And this marked character of the ghát, added to the unmarked character of the peak above it, may be one reason why the two are often confounded under the same appellation. But Dévadhúnga and Bhaíravthán are nevertheless sufficiently familiar and correct names for this peak, or snowy mass rather; and it were indeed a strange circumstance, if so remarkable a natural object had escaped the notice of the people of the country and thus remained unnamed. Nor would it have been very creditable to me after 20 years' residence in Nepal, had I been unable to identify that object. The two papers herewith submitted, together with those formerly submitted to the Asiatic Society of Bengal,\* or to Government, will, I trust, show that I have given as much attention to the general subject of Nepalese Geography as my opportunities and training admitted and my duty required, whilst the foregone remarks must satisfy every one that this special object, supposed to have been heretofore utterly unheeded, was one so situated and circumstanced that no reasonable excuse for ignorance of it on my part could be made, it being clear that personal approximation was no more a

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\* 1. Military road throughout the centre of Nepal from Kamaon to Sikim; to the Government.

2. Route from Kathmandu to Tazedo on Chinese frontier, to the Society, and published in its Researches.

3. Route from Kathmandu to Darjiling, to the Society, and published in its Journal.

4. Physical Geography of Himalaya, to the Society, and published in its Journal.

5. Visit to Nagakote, with notice of the rivers flowing into it. Printed in the Journal.

6. Variouss routes through Nepal, from and to places specified. Sent to Government, and deposited in its archives.

7 and 8. Two Journals of embassies from Nepal to Chína, now sent.

necessary condition of ascertaining the name than it was of determining the height, of Dévadhúnga.

The only doubt in my mind is the greater or less prevalence in Nepal Proper of the term Devadhúngá.

Having possibly obtained it from persons dwelling in the vicinity of Kútti, not at Kathmandu, I have written to Kathmandu to determine that question, and will here only add, that should the name prove to be more familiar to the people of the Cocean basin, than to those of the valley and capital, it will not be one whit less a "true native name," just as Colonel Waugh's own "Powhanri" is as true a native name, as Dr. Hooker's "Dónkia," in relation to a Sikkim peak and Ghát.

B. H. HODGSON.

*To the Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society.*

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The PRESIDENT was sure all who were present would be delighted if this mountain should for ever retain the name of the distinguished geographer who, following Lambton in the great trigonometrical survey of India, had been the means of carrying on that magnificent operation, which had been conducted to a conclusion by Colonel Waugh. A more appropriate name could not be given than that of Mount Everest; and, whatever might be its name in India, he hoped, in England at least, it would always be known by the name of Everest.

MR. PRINSEP, F.R.G.S., said it was known that the Himalaya range extended many degrees in length, and that in the whole course of it there were mountains of various heights. Some of them were the highest in the world. Those which had been really measured, overhung the plains of India, and until recently, it was supposed that the highest were near the sources of the Ganges. Since then, however, the discovery had been made that there was a mountain 28,000 feet high; and the present discovery showed another in Thibet, within sight of the territory of Nepal, 29,000 feet high. When we came to measure the mountains, in which the rivers of China rose, we should perhaps find some of them 30,000 feet high.

COLONEL EVEREST, F.R.G.S., begged to say that the very kind manner in which his successor and friend, Colonel Waugh, had spoken of him was far beyond his merits. He had certainly an arduous task in India to perform, and he did his best to bring it to maturity. One of the best measures he effected was to bring forward into the department a gentleman of Colonel Waugh's talents. The Court of Directors of the East India Company had the good sense to elect Lieutenant-Colonel, then Lieutenant Waugh, upon his (Colonel Everest's) representation of his merits. Colonel Waugh had fully borne out those representations, and he believed the Court of Directors were thoroughly satisfied in accepting his recommendation. The decision of Colonel Waugh, in giving his name to this high mountain, he certainly never contemplated. But as a spontaneous effusion of the regard of those Indian surveyors, the most efficient of whom were bred in the department, educated in fact by himself, the proceeding was very grateful to him personally. Yet he must confess there were objections to his name being given to this mountain, which did not strike everybody. One was, that his name was not pronounceable by a native of India. The name could not be written in either Persian or Hindi,

and the natives could not pronounce it. It would be confounded with that of O'Brien, and the hill people would probably call this mountain Ob'ron. As another instance of the difficulty which the natives experienced in pronouncing English names, he might, among others, mention that the name of the "Hon. Mr. Cavendish" was pronounced by them "Humbel go munde."

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2. *Notes on Moham'rah and the Chaab Arabs, etc.* By Col. Sir HENRY RAWLINSON, K.C.B., F.R.G.S., etc.

SIR H. RAWLINSON said he held in his hand a report upon Moham'rah and the Chaab Arabs, which he had prepared for the information of Her Majesty's Government about thirteen years ago, when the dependency of the first-named place was contested between the governments of Persia and Turkey, and when those powers had accepted the arbitration of England and Russia in the settlement of the dispute. Although this report, treating almost exclusively of political geography, might, perhaps, with some alterations and additions, be made fit for publication in the *Journal of the Geographical Society*, still he thought the Meeting, instead of having inflicted upon them a dry catalogue of barbarous names, and a still drier disquisition on the nationality of disputed territory, would prefer hearing something of the actual position and history of Moham'rah, a name which had now become, as it were, a household word in our annals. Therefore, instead of reading the official report, he proposed to divide his address into three parts. In the first place, he would trace upon the map the configuration of the adjoining country and explain something of the actual geography of Moham'rah. In the second place, as the ancient history of Moham'rah was of considerable interest, he would read a few notes which he had drawn up upon the comparative geography of the region in which it was situated from the earliest times. And, thirdly, if time permitted, he would offer a few observations upon the place, as connected with our recent military operations; that is in reference to the Persian war which had just been brought to a conclusion by Sir James Outram.

Moham'rah, as the meeting was aware, was the scene of our latest, and he hoped he might say, our last, military exploit against the Persians. It had thus become a place of very great interest; but he believed that at the present hour (as the town was not marked upon any of the standard published maps), there were very few people who were acquainted with its exact position. He proposed therefore, in the first place, to show exactly where it was, and to trace the geography of the surrounding country. The map before the Meeting exhibited the whole of the northern coast of the Persian