

the Yellala Falls of the Congo, his visit to Dahomey in 1863, his long journeys in the interior of South America in 1868, his explorations in Syria in 1869, and in Midian in 1876-8. Of all these he published instructive narratives, abounding in information regarding the geography, ethnology, and commercial resources of the various countries to which they relate.

Over and above his great and varied work as a traveller and explorer, Sir Richard Burton was eminent as an expositor of Oriental literature, and his extraordinary accomplishments as a vernacular linguist gave an additional and peculiar value to the numerous translations, with copious notes, which he published in the course of his busy life either as independent works or as contributions to the series of the Hakluyt Society or the 'Journal' and 'Proceedings' of the Royal Geographical Society.

M. E. GRANT DUFF,  
*President, R.G.S.*

NORTHBROOK,  
*President, R. Asiatic Society.*

JOHN BEDDOE, M.D.,  
*President, Anthropological Institute.*

F. A. ABEL,  
*President, British Association for the  
Advancement of Science.*

The Most Hon. the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G.

On the 22nd January our President received the following answer from the Treasury:—

Sir,—In reply to the letter of the 6th inst., signed by you and others, I am desired by Mr. W. H. Smith to say that he has much pleasure in informing you, and through you the various Societies interested, that the Queen has been pleased graciously to approve of his recommendation that a Civil List Pension of 150*l.* be awarded to Lady Burton, widow of the late Sir R. Burton, K.C.M.G. The necessary directions have been given accordingly.—I remain, &c., C. J. MAUDE.

The Right Hon. Sir M. E. Grant Duff, G.C.S.I.,  
President of the Royal Geographical Society.

**Mount Everest.\***—Through the courtesy of Dr. Emil Schlagintweit, a printed memorandum, forwarded to him from the Surveyor-General's office in Calcutta in June last, and entitled "A few lines on Mount Everest, a reply to Dr. Schlagintweit's note in Petermann's 'Mitteilungen,' vol. xxxiv., 1888, by Colonel H. C. B. Tanner, accompanied with three panoramic profiles of the East Nepal group," has been communicated to the Society. The more important of these profiles, that from Sandakphu, is practically identical with the view published in March 1886 in these 'Proceedings,' both being, in fact, reproductions from a sketch by Colonel Tanner, who now writes, "Without being a rigorously *true* profile based on angular measurements, it may be considered a fairly accurate one." This modest estimate is more than borne out by comparison with photographs of the same view from nature, which I have received from Mr. Paul, the Deputy Commissioner at Darjeeling. The two other outlines are more distant views of the same group from the plains, at a distance of 115 and 127 miles respectively from its highest peak. Colonel Tanner

\* By Mr. Douglas W. Freshfield.

is now able to bring forward valuable evidence on a point which, in 1886, I ventured to suggest ought to be referred to a competent observer on the spot, the identity of the peak pointed out to Hermann Schlagintweit and Dr. Hodgson in Nepal as Gaurisankar with the Mount Everest of the Survey. I quote his report:—"I now have before me the panoramic profiles and angular measurements of Major Wilson, for some time resident in Nepal, who observed from Sheopuri, a point on the Kaulia ridge. Schlagintweit's Gaurisankar—the Everest of successive residents in Nepal—was pointed out to Major Wilson, and from his angular measurements I am enabled to identify that peak as No. XX., 23,447 feet, more than a mile lower than Everest, and in point of distance very far short of it. Thus it is certain that the 'Gaurisankar' of Schlagintweit, and of the well-informed 'pundits,' and of Jung Bahadur, is *not* the 'Everest' of the Survey Department, but some other mountain with which I am not for the present concerned. . . . That such high sounding names as Deo-dhunga, Gaurisankar, and Bharab-Langur are not permissible to the peak which we call Everest, is a matter of some regret; but they can still be applied to the general mass of mountains of which Everest is merely the most lofty pinnacle. . . . I for one should be glad to learn from a reliable source any native name for Mount Everest, but as far as my enquiries go—enquiries made during a number of years when conducting survey operations in Sikkim, or in the plains of Bengal immediately at the foot of Everest—I never met a native, either of Nepal or of the adjacent tracts, who could identify it as being higher than its neighbours, or as having any name by which to distinguish it from the surrounding peaks." Colonel Tanner does not here refer to the mention by Chandra Das, one of the pundits employed by the Survey, in his official report on his journey to Lhasa, of "Lapohhyikang, called Mount Everest in English maps."\* He, perhaps, holds that

\* 'Narrative of a Journey to Lhasa in 1881-2,' Surveyor-General's Office, Calcutta, 1885:—Page 5:—"Bonshar is a country of defiles through which the Dudkosi flows. It lies between the great mountain range running from north to south, of which the culminating point is Lapchhyikang (called Mount Everest in English maps), and that lofty range which commences east of Nanam (or Nilam) to terminate at the junction of the Sun and Dudkosi rivers. The Tibetan extension of Lapchhyikang westward along 28° N. lat., which forms the southern snowy wall of great Tibet, south of the Tengri district of Tibet, is its northern boundary. Shar Khambu, of which the loftiest peak is Chomo-Kankar of the Lapchi range, lies to the west of Arun, and south of the Pheruk district of Tibet."

Page 17:—"To our north-west, at a great distance, I saw numerous snowy ranges, said to be the Shar Khambu mountains, whose tops were wrapped in clouds. I got out my field-glass from my bag and feasted my eyes on the splendid scenery of the grandest and loftiest of the world's mountains—Choma Kankar (the lord of snows), which overhangs Lap-chyi, the famous mountain of great Buddhist sanctity. The highest of the three peaks that were visible, Choma Kankar, reposing in calm majesty in the shape of a rounded dome, rose high above all, and the two others that stood side by side, like his ministers, resembled blunted cones. They were resplendent with the rays of the sun, the shadows being cast to the north-west. To the north-west of these were the

in this case also the pundit applies the name to a peak other than the surveyors' "Mount Everest," or to a group and not to a particular peak. Bharab-Langur is, apparently, one of the names of the pass by which the road from Lhasa to Khatmandu by the Tengri-Maidan crosses the East Nepal chain. I have a photograph from a rude Tibetan map, which Mr. Paul believes to represent the pass in question. The various towns and monasteries on the road, the shepherds' stations on the hills, are all shown in a pictorial style; pilgrims march up the passes waving rosaries or prayer-wheels. In the centre of the map-picture, between two passes described as the La-skyid-gangsa-la and the Pirtsi-sa,\* rises a group of five great snow-peaks: the central peak has its summit fashioned into a human head, with appendent clouds which form long dark mustachios; the two peaks next it have animal heads. This curious document, and also the narrative of Chandra Das (shortly to be published by the Society in a condensed form), show a considerable talent in the Tibetans for individualising mountain peaks. The pundit, indeed, displays an altogether surprising enthusiasm for mountain scenery.—In conclusion, I cannot agree with Colonel Tanner, that the discussion as to the best name for the 29,000 feet peak has been a waste of time. My argument has been based, not, as Colonel Tanner suggests, on the identity of Gaurisankar and "Mount Everest" (see R.G.S. 'Proceedings,' vol. viii. p. 183), but on the belief that some native name could be found for the group of which the latter peak forms part or for one of the passes near it, and that such a name might be properly assigned to the peak itself. His argument, on the contrary, has rested on a refusal to recognise, in this particular instance alone, the fact that in geographical nomenclature it is a common practice to transfer a collective name first given to a group to its highest peak, or to call a peak after the pass nearest it. For example, in his own report (1883-4, reprinted 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xii. p. 340) Colonel Tanner has written, "With the exception of a tract to the north-west of the summit of

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Shar Khambu mountains, which gradually enveloped with ascending fogs, soon vanished from our sight."

From these descriptive passages there is certainly some reason to infer that the pundit's Chomo- or Chomakankar is Makalu, and that the whole group is known to him as Lapchhyikang. I should have believed that it was to these passages that Colonel Tanner has referred elsewhere (see Report, 1883-4), but that the position he there assigns to the "rounded top" mentioned by "S. O. D." is inconsistent with the geographical details given above, and that he could hardly have failed to notice the close correspondence of the pundit's description with his own Sandakphu sketch.

\* The names have been transliterated for me at the British Museum. They run as follows, from top to bottom, along the two roads right and left of the map:—*Right*—Mya-li-pan-rgyas-ling; La-skyid-gang-sa-la; Cu-len; Sridt-kur-mi; Gron-kang; Sing-skyid-la; La-skyid-bduddul-pug; Kyung-pug; Peyi-mar-prug; Mood-rten-stupe; Cos-dge-pel-gling; Lung-ston-pug; Gyn-lo-bkod. *Left*—Zar-k'ang-bla-brong; Dingri-giang-akoi; Pip-tsi-sa; Grong-kang; Rta-gam; Nam-oen-pug; Kar-po-bum-ri; Tse-ring-wa-gangs; Cu-bar-sgrn-pa-gling; Drin-stod-grong-pa; Krub-bde-rjod; Sag-kra. †

Kinchinjanga, we now have a map of the whole of that great mass of mountain peaks and ridges which *collectively go by that name.*" If we can for the future confirm the common practice here recognised, and keep down exotic names, the discussion has served its main purpose, and I for one shall be quite ready to admit an occasional exception. It is far more important and interesting to improve our knowledge of the great ranges of the world than to name particular summits. There seems some reason to hope that the frontiers of India may before long be more fully explored, and the results of that exploration less sedulously concealed than heretofore. Meantime the Society's Map Curator would welcome copies of the maps of Kinchinjanga and Nepal referred to by Colonel Tanner, as well as photographic reproductions of his numerous drawings of Himalayan scenery, a few of which have been exhibited in England. And it would be interesting to mountain-lovers to have the original reports of the native explorers H. H. and G. S. S. of their journeys in East Nepal in 1871-2 and 1881-2, very brief references to which only have appeared in the Annual Reports of the Survey, but which, from the 'Sketch-map of the Routes traversed by Survey Explorers from 1865 to 1883,' appear to have led them very close to "Mount Everest."

**Longitude Observations in Siam.**—Our associate, Mr. James M'Carthy, Superintendent of Surveys in Siam, who read an instructive paper on that country to the Society in November 1887, and has lately been engaged in fixing the longitude of various places in Siam by the electric telegraph, has sent us a copy of the tables of the observations. The principal points thus determined are:—Luang Prabang (Phratat Choman Pagoda), long.  $102^{\circ} 05' 56''$  E., and Korat (Court House),  $102^{\circ} 06' 52''$  E.; lat.  $14^{\circ} 58' 43''$ . Luang Prabang has been determined from the observations of four different years, the results being sufficiently accordant. Using these and other values of longitude, Mr. M'Carthy has connected, chiefly by chronometers, upwards of four hundred points in different parts of Siam.

**The Jebel Jurjura from Algiers.\***—In the spring of 1886 I made the first ascent by a traveller, of which (so far as I can find) there is any record, of the second summit of the Jebel Jurjura, Ras Timedouine. On my return to Algiers I recognised the mountain, and tried in vain to convince some of the oldest residents that it was this peak and not the better-known Lolla Kredija, of which the snows are seen glittering on the horizon from the gardens of the capital. The publication of the new official map of the country † now enables me to prove the correctness of my belief. The two summits are respectively 7572 and 7562 feet in height, and 68 and 63 miles distant from Algiers. A straight

\* By Mr. D. W. Freshfield.

† 'Carte topographique de l'Algérie au 50,000,' published by the Service Géographique de l'Armée, Paris.