

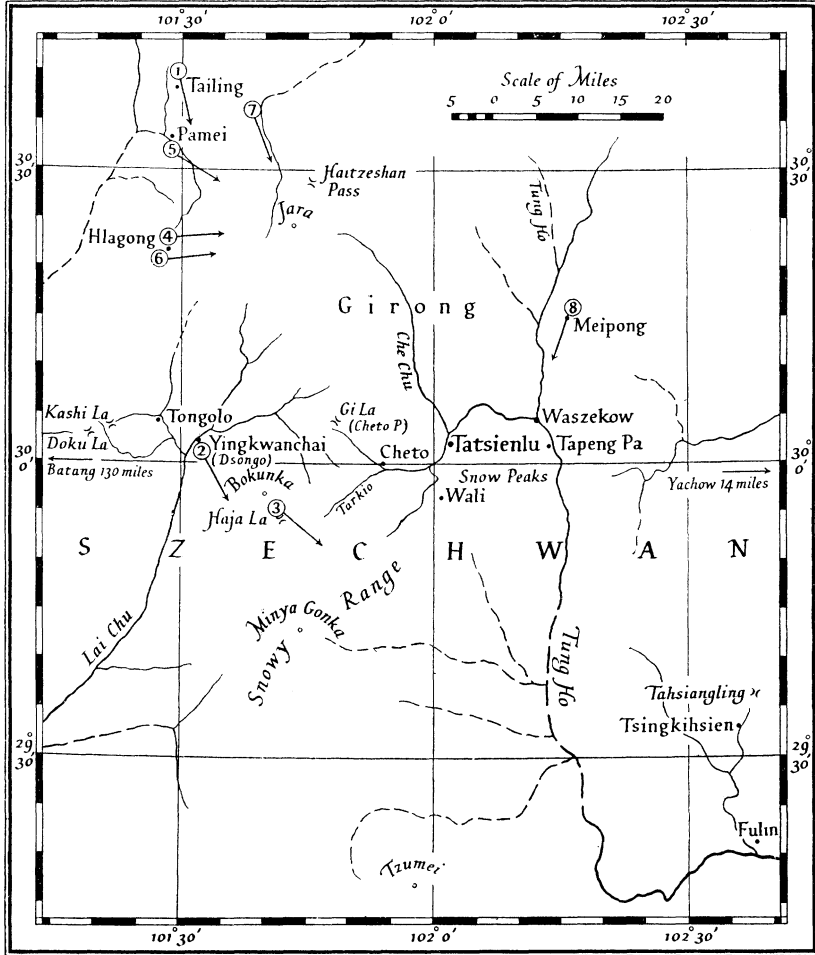
SKETCHES OF THE TATSIENLU PEAKS

HERBERT STEVENS

IT was my good fortune to be a member of the Kelley-Roosevelts' Expedition to Yunnan and Szechwan. To enable our party to work to the best advantage, in accordance with pre-arranged plans we separated en route and, for me, finally at Likiang, owing to my missing connection at Tatsienlu. The collection of zoological and botanical specimens was my first consideration; but, owing to the time required by these duties, and exceptional climatic conditions giving good visibility which must have been phenomenal for a time of year under the influence of the south-west monsoon, I saw much of the country traversed to perfection. Our party left Bhamo on 26 December 1928, arriving in nine days at Tengyueh. I left this place a day later than my companions, and after crossing the Mekong struck easterly to Mingshih, taking fourteen days to reach Tali, where our party was again united. It took five days via Kienchwan to reach Likiang. On March 7 I left Likiang, spending fifty-five days en route in camp and thirty-eight days on the march, via Yungning, Muli, Kopadi, Kulu, Kon La 14,600 feet, Yonka La 15,000 feet, Tiyu 12,900 feet (Gompa), Yatsu 11,200 feet, Baurong 8000 feet (Rope ferry below village), Patei (Pass 15,300 and 15,000 feet), Wushi 12,000 feet (Pass 15,000 feet, descent to 12,700 feet, Pass 15,600 feet), Kusata (Gompa), Chentze 13,100 feet, Laila hamlet 12,400 feet, Chaulu 13,600 feet (Gompa), Lai Chu (Bridge), Zamba Ku 11,600 feet (bridge, stone towers, open valley), Trazya 12,100 feet, Haja Tungu 13,000 feet (Gompa), Haja La 15,300 feet, Cheto, to Tatsienlu, where I arrived on June 1. After work at two camps near at hand, Cheto and Wali, I was joined by my friend Huston Edgar on two journeys. The first was through the Tibetan Borderland via Cheto (Pass 15,000 feet), Anyangpa 12,900 feet, Yingkwanchai 12,400 feet, and Tongolo 12,500 feet, where we left the Batang track and struck north to Pehsang 12,500 feet, Chengmengka 12,700 feet, Hlagong 13,300 feet (Gompa), Pamei 12,300 feet (Gompa), Tailing 12,600 feet (Gompa), Kwanchai 13,700 feet, from which place on our return we went south with a diversion east to Tailing, crossing the Haitzeshan at 15,000 feet on the eastern side of the Jara mountain, Sintientze, Tsongku, to Tatsienlu: time on march eighteen days. The second journey was east to Waszekow, where we turned north following the right bank of the Tung Ho to Kutsa (Gompa), crossing the river by ferryboat at Chingshui 6000 feet, stiff ascent of 3800 feet to ridge circ. 8500 feet overlooking Meipong 7900 feet, descent followed by stiff ascent of 3800 feet to ridge overlooking the Tung Ho gorge at 10,800 feet. From this point our route continued north-easterly with descent to Tienta 9000 feet, river crossing above hamlet 7400 feet, small gorge, perpendicular crags on right, Kochaihopa 7500 feet, Trashichoten 8300 feet (Gompa), Shwang Yu 8900 feet, Tongling 8800 feet, the last house to the west of the watershed; camp in river-bed 9800 feet, Santochai camp 11,500 feet, Lianghokow (remains of single house, open grasslands 12,200 feet), gradual rise to 13,100 feet, followed by a sharp descent in a south-easterly direction to Tupakö 7400 feet, Laoyingkö 6500 feet, Pashku 5400 feet, Moaten 4400 feet, to the town of Muping 4000 feet, thence to Yachow via Lingkwang, Renjaba and Feih sien. (Innumerable hanging plat-

forms, tree-trunk bridges, and one rope crossing.) Time on march twenty-one days. I reached Shanghai on 6 November 1929.

Early in the year, when traversing Yunnan, distant snow-capped mountains had been seen to the north; and when I arrived at Likiang and camped during February in the village of Ngulukö, some 12 miles north at the base of the mountain Satsetö, the glaciers and snow-capped peaks of the Likiang Range



Sketch-map showing positions from which Mr. Stevens' sketches were made

were seen at comparatively short range, the summit of Satsetö being visible from the narrow street in the village. Another peak Ginalakö is visible from the track which runs north and south over the plain about half a day's journey to the north.

On the evening of March 25, from my camp at 12,000 feet, two and a half days' journey south of Muli, this range could be clearly seen on the horizon 80 miles to the south. On the morning of April 23, after leaving Kulu, an impressive

view of a massive snow-capped range, somewhat obscured by clouds, was obtained from open country at 12,500 feet looking west-north-west, which range the lama who was accompanying me called the Shola Gonka; while on the afternoon of the 30th, when between Yatsu and Baurong before the descent to the gorge of the Yalung, I had an impressive view to the east of snow mountains, which the lama and carriers spoke of as the Minya Gonka, evidently a portion of the same range which I was later to see to perfection: the culminating mountain admits of no error in identification under favourable circumstances. On May 31 my caravan, comprising villagers, yaks and ponies, left the village of Haja Tungu and were laboriously traversing a long ascent on a track with an execrable surface little better than that of a moraine, when I decided to forge ahead. On reaching the narrow gap on the summit of the Haja La, with the first gust of wind over came a butterfly (*Parnassius*), a genus I had not met with up till then. On coming through the gap I was held spell-bound by the utter solitude and sterility of a range of mountains, fantastic in shape and outline. I had immediately to make the most of a double opportunity. Leaving my boys to the difficult task of netting as many insects as they could catch on the screes in a high wind, I ascended the ground on my left, where a blue *Meconopsis* was sparingly in evidence, working in the direction which would be likely to disclose a more extensive view to the south-east. After gaining some 200 feet I was amply rewarded with the view of the pyramidal snow mountain shown in sketch No. 3. My camera had failed me before reaching Yungning, but my sketches are substantially accurate to the best of my ability. My altitudes are only approximate from aneroid readings.

From above Wali, some 15 miles south of Tatsienlu and north of the Yajajen Pass, on June 30, I had hoped to get a view to the south-west of the dominating peaks of this same range, but the weather was not propitious, and though I obtained a momentary glimpse of what was most likely this particular peak, from this direction it showed a slightly inclined summit with a steep face on my left while the opposing face was almost perpendicular. [Perhaps the Ru-ching of Gill.]

It was not until the afternoon of July 15, when at Yingkwanchai, that Edgar and I saw to perfection the same mountain, figured in sketch No. 2, showing from this viewpoint as a pyramid completely covered with snow, in a southerly direction; a rough guess would place it about 30 miles away. Again from Tailing about 2 miles north of the monastery, on the morning of the 26th the whole range was visible as in sketch No. 1. There was every indication of an extensive glacier to the left of the culminating peak.

Another imposing mountain, at the extreme end of this bend of the Himalaya to the north of Tatsienlu, is Jara, which was seen first from the west of Yingkwanchai at an elevation of 14,500 feet, a portion of the summit being disclosed in a north-north-easterly direction; but it was not until we reached a point south of Hlagong monastery on July 19 that the whole mountain mass above the perpetual snow-line was revealed to the east in all its majesty, and though less of it was seen from our camp July 19-22, to the north of Hlagong, later at Pamei on the evening of the 23rd it was seen to perfection. The Tibetans speak of this mountain as higher than the Minya Gonka, probably owing to its isolation. Judging by the amount of perpetual snow,

some of these mountains are very high, and in shape are eminently beautiful. On the evening of August 3 from our camp at 13,000 feet Jara appeared to block our route to the south, and the following evening when we camped on the Haitzeshan pass at 15,000 feet, we had nearer views of its glaciers and snow when we pitched camp in a perishing blizzard. Early next morning a few glimpses were obtained, but soon the clouds settled, and in our descent south it was soon lost to view. Nearing Tatsienlu on the evening of August 6, a snow-peak of this same range was visible from one viewpoint some 7 miles north of Tatsienlu in a south-south-westerly direction, which would be a peak of the same group as seen from our mid-day halt on August 20, after leaving Meipong, on the mountains above the left bank of the Tung Ho looking south-west 200° (Sketch No. 8). These mountains are visible from water-level at certain points on the Ya river, and there is also an excellent view from Omeishan; but whether the commanding Minya Gonka is visible from the summit of Omeishan I am unable to say. It was blocked by a shoulder of the mountain when I stayed at Shihshahshu on October 5 to 9; but I did manage to obtain a fleeting glimpse of the peaks in a west-north-westerly direction.

[The sketch-map is based upon the Survey of India 1/M sheet Kiatingfu, with additions depending on rough compass traverses. The positions from which the sketches were made are shown by numbered circles, and arrows show the general direction. The bearings given in the titles of the sketches are magnetic, but the variation at Tatsienlu in 1929 was very small, about $0^{\circ} 25'$ west by the Carnegie Institution Survey brought up to date with approximate secular change. Mr. Stevens had the assistance of Mr. Edgar in recording the names, and considers that Minya Gonka is near the correct spelling. The name Tatsienlu of the Chinese Postal Guide is pronounced Dachienlu.]

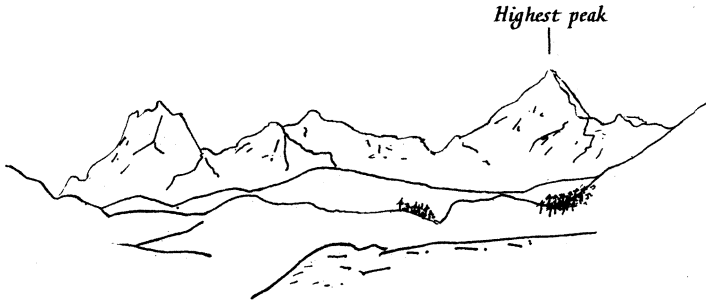
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

THE newly formed Canadian Geographical Society held its inaugural meeting at Ottawa on 17 January 1930. The President, Dr. Charles Camsell, was in the chair, and the Governor-General (Lord Willingdon) honoured the proceedings with his presence.

Dr. Camsell, in opening the meeting, said that for some years past Canadians had had in mind the formation of a Geographical Society for the advancement and diffusion of geographical knowledge, more particularly relating to Canada. Such a Society had now been formed, and he looked forward to its being of great service to Canada. He also read out a telegram of greetings to the Canadian Geographical Society from the President and Council of this Society.

Lord Willingdon congratulated the Society and said he hoped it would enable Canadians to know more of Canada. He had had to travel much about the country, and he was surprised to find how little those living in one part knew of other parts of their own country. This deficiency the Society should help to make good.

Dr. Isaiah Bowman, Director of the American Geographical Society of New



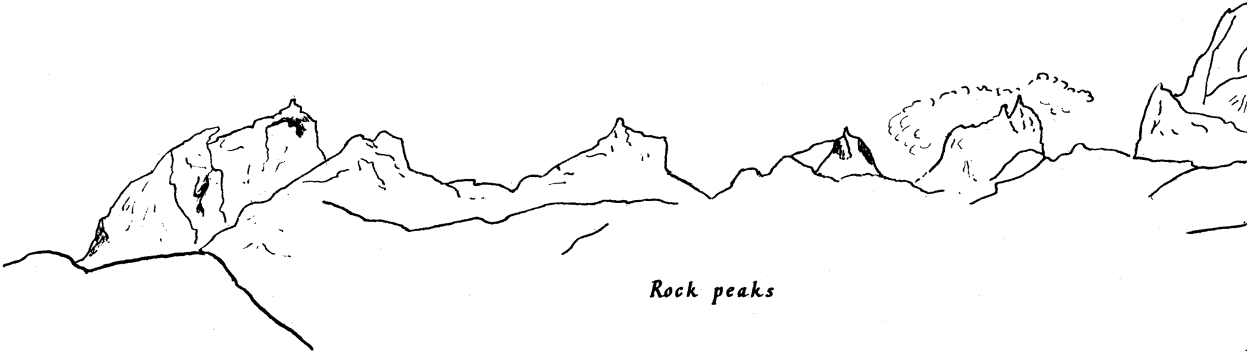
1 *Minya Gonka from a point (12,900 ft.) two miles north of Tailing Gompa, looking S.S.E. Peak N. 165° E. 26 Jul. 1929.*



4 *Jara from camp (13,000 ft.) Hlagong Gompa, looking N.*



2 *Minya Gonka from Yingkwanchai (12,450 ft.). 15 Jul. 1929.*



Rock peaks

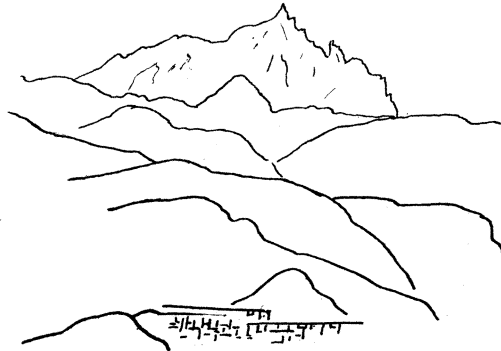
3 *Range S.W. of Tatsienlu from Minya Gonka on extreme right*

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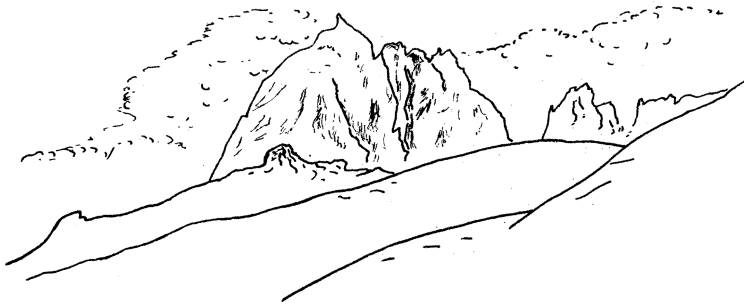
By Herbert Stevens



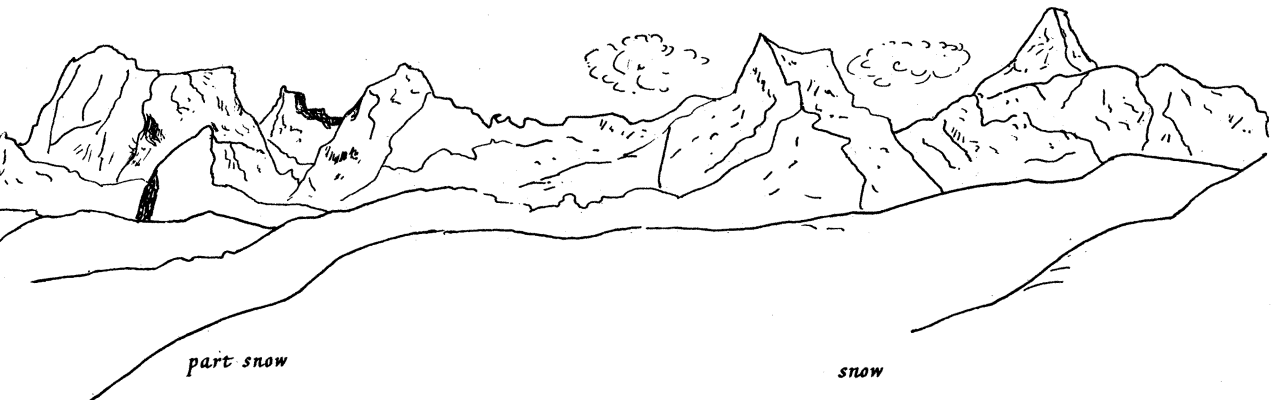
4 Camp (13,500 ft.) a little north of
Gompa, looking east. 19 Jul. 1929.



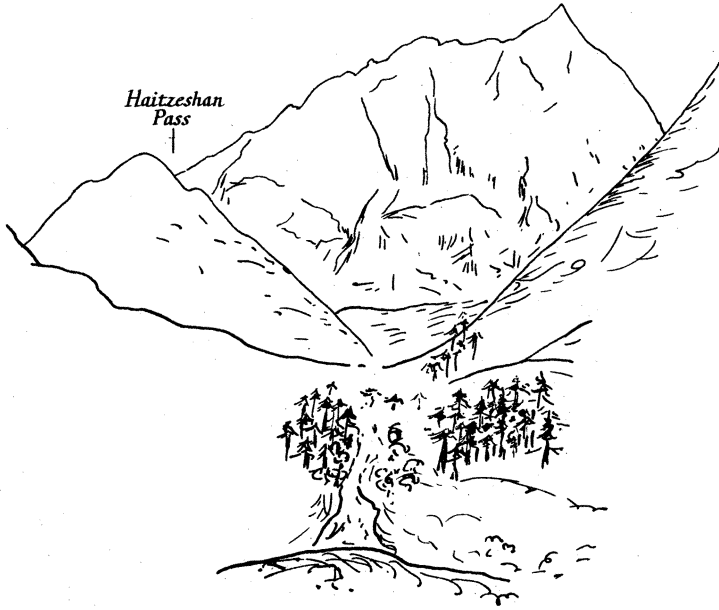
5 Jara from camp (12,300 ft.)
south of Pamei Gompa. 23 Jul. 1929.



6 Jara from a point (13,600 ft.) south of
Hlagong Gompa, looking east. 21 Jul. 1929.



7 Tasienu from Haja La (15,300 ft.)
extreme right. 31 May 1929.



7 Jara from camp (13,000 ft.) about 10 miles east of Tailing, looking S.E. 3 Aug. 1929.



8 Mountains S.E. of Tatsienlu from north of Meipong, looking S.S.W. 20 Aug. 1929.