

Blind Craig May 18<sup>th</sup>

My dear H.

B. H. Hodgson Esq

I have amused feelings

wishes - I suppose is evidently an  
fool though simple enough & has  
the honesty for giving me the credit  
of knowing the Rajah's feelings & the  
nature of Siletium's motives. I could  
not help laughing at the simple  
manner in which he delivered the P.S.  
hooker that I was not to get Leichen  
Leichen's title autograph & the ridiculous  
expectation or certainty he entertained  
of my such proposition being answered  
in two words. For the moment I said  
I would so be dropped it - & like a goose

Bling long May 18<sup>th</sup>

My dear H.

I write you two days ago  
I have not much to add beyond  
what the Journal contains; as  
the public is about read quarters  
& obstructions I have bothered myself  
with I believe the Turk is divine  
trouble is past with Mesopotamia  
perhaps Exposition of the silly Rajah's  
wishes - Mesopotamia is evidently no  
fool though simple enough & has  
the honesty for giving me the credit  
of knowing the Rajah's feelings & the  
nature of his petition obstacles. I could  
not help laughing at the simple  
manner in which he delivered the P.  
book that I was not to get Lecher  
Lecher's title Antiquarian & the evident  
expectation or certainty he entertained  
of my such proposition being overruled  
in two words. For the moment I said  
I would so be dropped it, & like a goose

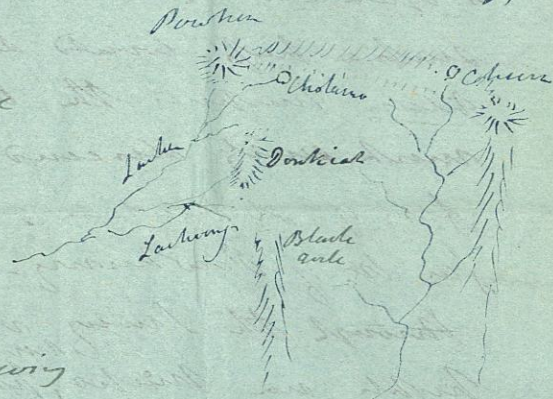


He has ten times my talent & ability to avail himself of your guidance. There as you often say, we into questions whose sense we detect only can appreciate. That art may be best judged of by common sense & a practiced eye, is much clearer. & of this, the foreign are ignorant. picture dealers (who are nearly wrong), even the owners of paintings is the best proof. & these ignorant detect the painter's hand in unobvious works, by the handling, whose artists, too prejudiced in their own favor, cannot; for they are wiser to than realize than their own, ~~know~~ but their own means of attaining force, color, shade &c.

From all I can gather the Lachen Lachung papers are, as I expected, South of Waugh's Pouchung, & I have given Campbell my notions of the distribution & origin of these countries: if I am right the paper will lead on to a new settlement to what I

should call the Plain of Thibet proper. So great a distance therefore that it would be out of the question to reach it. I shall, at the top of the pass, be South of Pouchung, & except I make much more cutting than I expect (which would send me at Phari) great stream of that mth (Pouchung) must stretch ~~to~~ East of me.

It appears to me that the fork of the Northern feeder, the Lachen, rising in a Lake, & flowing



to the South, in consequence on the so-called plain against Cholama (near it) being on this side the water shed, even if I did not see by my route a-head that the paper was S. of Pouchung. Suppose I get to Cholama, that is as far as I can, for the next stop if I remember right is a village & this is I suppose a top of the water-shed, or thereabouts.  
 May 14. Lings N. Bumbay Tent Dec 14.

We came on here last night - are  
a/2 mile or so south of the junction of  
L. L. with Teete. some 3000 ft above  
the river bed, where there is a bridge,  
which I am about to cross. & strike N.E.  
up the Lecher Lachony. I am extremely  
doubtful if I am doing right in  
pursuing Lecher Lachony, now  
that the upper course of the Teete,  
which Campbell says leads to a pass  
is open to me. but so ~~high~~ <sup>high</sup> for, if true,  
such a pass would sink my <sup>Whit</sup>  
plains <sup>horses</sup> the best, & I could  
not surely descend when the weather  
flew of obstructions. This must lead  
far W. of Powderhorn. & go right North  
through the Snow range. None of my  
people, nor <sup>our</sup> <sup>villagers</sup> <sup>or</sup> <sup>traders</sup> know any  
thing of a Pass that direction. all  
say, after a few marches, the country is  
in practicable. I doubt the Razak  
willing me to go there if it led to  
a pass. Campbell's information is  
very vague, especially as to time &  
also the requisite food - an axiom it  
is better always to ~~carry~~ <sup>carry</sup> to first  
intention, & if I am effectually opposed

about Lecher Lachony, I can  
still bear up for this & return.  
The country here is outrageously wild  
& the branches of the Teete E & W look  
especially uninviting. These marches  
the last valleys are most fatiguing  
& I am generally utterly prostrated in mind  
& body by the exposure & heat of it for  
nothing but bed - I never felt any thing  
like the ex haustion of my body, is as such  
as a heaving sky & clanging; a good work  
reminds me but I can hardly keep  
my eyes open to write up my Journal.  
The people all believe remarkably  
well. & really they are a very fine race  
than Sephas, patient enduring & so  
cheerful & kindly disposed to me & others,  
for fidelity & consideration I am  
always prepared. I never hear of a  
man in camp or see them quarrel  
as the men of Shab did - I think it is  
the false chin that gives <sup>much of</sup> the womanish  
cast to the face & really some of them  
look more like great girls than men.  
Some of my boys are so weak really, my  
well seen that Hopmans arm is  
disabled. Washes me down much as

an ostra does his huckle his work  
careful & attentive. He is clean with  
whom I like to cherubins - Don  
Giuseppe. To see two washing my  
put would make you laugh. They  
handle them as if made of glass &  
when highly polished show any  
speck of dirt off! - But I cannot  
break off - I write to Jenkins  
hereby. Best regards to Tazle  
Ever your affectionate

J. B. Hooker

P.S. I have found a fine new  
(to me) species of Tree Fern, with  
prickly stems. It is very succulent  
edible core.