

Yungu July 25. 1869  
Maps, charts, sections plans <sup>my notes</sup> & <sup>my notes</sup>  
My dear Mr.

At last I have been to  
the frontier & stand upon the bene field  
Yunich plateau, for to such I was  
well assured this Lachen river would  
lead, as soon as the Sington South  
described Kongra Lama to me.

Yesterday I went <sup>thither</sup> having carried  
my pack as to proceeding from <sup>Sanding</sup> ~~Sington~~  
by a happy accident of which I can tell  
will inform you.

Yungu is some 6 miles a little W. of  
North from Sanding. The road along  
the E. bank of the Lachen is excellent  
carriageable in many places, broad enough  
& flat enough, but ever interrupted  
by rocks, ridges & spurs. - Vegetation  
rapidly decreases. The hills become lower  
instead of higher & are still more sloping  
& beautifully green. Here the ~~Yungu~~ <sup>Yungu</sup> ~~choo~~  
enters from the West, & the valley is very

broad quite flat with just a  
little juniper. I collected 15 new plants  
on the road up to 40 miles in two  
hours about the camp. Astragalus  
Fumaria & other Tibetan types  
usually in crevices.

The Lachen Soubah waited on me,  
swore himself to truth & took me  
to the pass yesterday. Good 12 miles  
(linear) north of this, with a good road  
all the way. elevation about 10,000 ft.

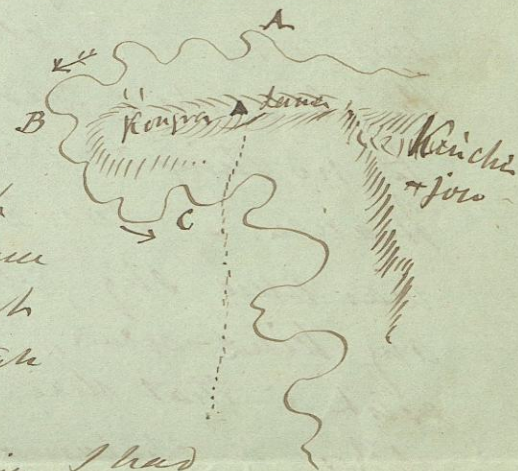
Soon after leaving Junger - camp the Lachen  
(12,000 ft, temp 50!) - it here runs through  
a narrow glen with rugged bits of P.S. on  
the West which run North in a splendid  
line of snowy cliffs called Chomimmo.  
But flanked by low hills along the  
river & these said lofty snowy ranges  
<sup>is continued</sup> south to the fork of the Jemu &  
Lachen in low ranges after passing  
Junger. Above this the Lachen valley  
expands & receives 2 streams from  
Chomimmo, both large, on the N. are low  
hills running South from the Kanchang jow,  
without a particle of snow. All along

The river is flanked by broad stony  
flats & spurs with only grass & tufted  
herbs, a little juniper (creeping) & Rhododendron.  
Some 5 miles up we passed a shallow  
glen opening up to Chomimmo with lots  
of Perh. Snow at 14,500 or 15,000 ft. The  
river meanders & splits much, its  
channel very tortuous, & above there  
feeder from the W. is a placid stream.  
At 14,000 ft or so we arrived at the  
Lachen Soubah's black tents. Yaks &  
horses & were welcomed by his square  
in a sumptuous meal of Tea with sack,  
butter, curd, parched rice, maize &c.

We halted an hour when a tremendous  
peal like thunder woke every corner of the  
glen, it was a thick fog & drizzle. The  
Whothkas started up saying "The mountains  
are falling we shall have rain". I was  
very puzzled, for I thought a heavy thunder  
storm had broken over head, but it  
appeared that it really was the noise of  
falling masses of Kanchang jow &  
Chomimmo - we started & soon after it passed.

with rain, - the roar of the falling  
 water was truly terrible & incessant.  
 For an hour. I never heard any thing  
 more awful. & I cannot say which most  
 contributed most, the returns salutes &  
 echoes so incessantly. The low hills  
 flanking each prevent a fragment  
 reaching the valley. The rain doubled us  
 & cleared off, the valley opened with a  
 funnel mouth, & at 15000 ft. we  
 were on a bona fide plateau, between  
 these two great trees, some 3 or 5 miles  
 apart. From either hand, low flat  
 terraces, all stony & bare ~~started~~ <sup>started</sup> up &  
 down met, joined, insculcated, &  
 waved across the surface. For 4 miles  
 more or thereabouts we hardly ascended  
 500 ft. to a low very broad & hardly  
 distinguishable E & W. ridge, of Kongra  
 Lama, which runs a little N of West  
 from the N. W. extreme of Kinchen jora.  
 When on it, you find it is culminant,  
 but so low that the cairn on it is not  
 seen half a mile off. The top is an  
~~un~~ definable flat into which other similar

low ridges dip, producing so confused  
 a surface that it is impossible to say  
 what was higher & what lower of  
 great broad ridges, not 50 or 100 ft above  
 the mean level of the land, for 4 miles  
 south & many more north. The Lachen  
 forms a semicircle round this ~~flat~~ spur  
 from Kinchen jora - Comes from N. E. of it  
 flows E West, along its N. base, turns South  
 cutting through, then East & again South  
 down the valley. -  
 So confusing is the  
 surface that standing  
 at **A** north of Soubah  
 nor Serth could convince  
 me that the Lachen at  
**A** was not <sup>much lower</sup> higher than  
 at **B**, & **B**, lower than  
**C**. & to their diversion I had  
 to walk thither some half mile to convince  
 myself. - North of **A** low flat spurs  
 succeed one another, the land dipping very  
 considerably, to Geerce, the Chinese Port, a  
 few miles on, where is a Dingpen & guard  
 they say, it is invisible from this at



time, I know the storm that had pelted  
us passed over & hid the distance -  
All assured me that should the <sup>cloud</sup> lift  
I would see low ranges of hills with  
stones, hardly a rock, running in all  
directions - N. East. The plain continues to  
Cholamoo, & was backed at 8 miles by  
a low <sup>oblique</sup> range of grassy  
rounded topped hills, say 10 miles long &  
1500 above <sup>"Pevka-tihlo"</sup> Kongra Luma, pretty steep  
but not a particle of rock. They rise from  
the N. slope of Cholamoo plains, belong  
to no thing & look as if dropped from  
Heaven. - due E. & between East & N.E.  
was blue sky, very fine, not a trace of  
any kind - snow, or other. None  
exist in that direction, all were <sup>low</sup> waving  
slopes of Cholamoo. Doukiah Sabi opens  
on their <sup>plateau</sup> to the South of East of this  
Pass. Hence, as I said on first arriving  
at Dorjiling, my dear Kinkling job is  
the northernmost of all the Sibiria  
Himalayas etc. I must rise clear out of the  
Tibetan plateau! - & so it does, abruptly  
is a wall of bare rock & slopes of debris

behind which a precipice of snow towers  
up perpendicularly to 20000 ft, capped  
with prodigious beds of snow.  
West - low spurs of Chomimoo rise out of  
these plains, steps by steps, & S.W. the  
ground cuts itself, not inferior to Kinkling  
job, reared its walls of snow, also all  
perpendicular, & trending South to a  
little North of Tungo. - South. The plateau  
contracts as a funnel, & then dips down  
to the valley of the Lachen. I walked about  
a great deal, for views, the people having  
no objection to my pulling foot in Chien,  
indeed we halted without the Sibiria,  
but I could get no views - the surface is  
so wavy. That you are lost the moment  
you leave the road as far as knowing  
by land marks what way to turn -  
It is like the Dunes in Holland on a  
gigantic scale. a labyrinth of mere nothing,  
with the streams so tortuous that you  
cannot guess which way they run -  
North of Kongra the Lachen appears all  
pool & marsh. & though at its full, hardly  
flows. I thought the flats of its north  
bank a good deal lower than Kongra

which is the flank of its south bank,  
but nothing but a delicate level could  
determine that. - be that as it may,  
the Lachen river from S.E. or rather  
from the South of East of Kongra, flows  
~~North of along Kongras North flank~~  
appears to cut ~~between~~ Kongra the  
ridge between Kongra & Chomuis no  
get down the valley.

July 26<sup>th</sup> This is a splendid morning  
& I must make use of it so cannot  
write more. I was writing all last  
night & am exceedingly busy -  
shankers for yours of 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> & the  
books. See p. affected

I have finished & send the  
Tevai journal - very foul & fear, please send  
it to Campbell when read

P.S. with a particle of snow the whole  
way - not a speck on Kongra Lamas  
at 15500 nor for 10000 ft up the  
mts facing Tibet: 1. Temp of  
Lachen at 15500 ft 47° - of Thlonde  
at 10000 ft snow was 40° - Mueller  
will send you true height of Kongra Lamas

Handwritten notes on the right margin, including "July 26th" and "4th & 5th".