

The general features of the valley of Myong River
as far as I can see for far is that this part of the water
range is more open, the valleys broader & hills lower
than Sikkim.

My dear H.

Shortly after writing to you this
morning (you heard of Balasun & Little Nungret)
we started for this place, stole along the
indistinguishable Goong ridge, for a mile or
two, when descending a slope to W., we
came to the boundary of Nepal & Sikkim
marked by 3 stakes in the road, and nothing
else. The fog was too thick (if the jungles
were not) to see right or left, but the
Himalayas was very communicative on
the subject. Looking N. or South he said
all the water flowing E. belonged to Sikkim
& fell into Little Nungret or Balasun as the
case may be, & to W. fell into Myong
which river takes its rise from the S. base
of Tonglo (called "Tom loom" by the Ghorkhas
the same pronunc. as the R. of Sikkim's place).
The descent N. towards Tonglo is very steep &
pathless. South a spur runs, dividing
the Balasun valley from that of Myong &
Mechi. ^{is very large} Please tell all this to C., also that
the stakes were on the W. slope of the Goong
ridge, where it dips to Nepal & half an
hour's sharp walk from head of B. & L. R. rivers

Campbell did not want me to bring up the fear of cholera in any way. I take new evolutions in this matter as I go on.

I breathed fresher when out of Sikkim &
with sky before me, for without the zenith
& glimpses of fog & right & left of the
young spur was all I had seen. The side
clips steeply into Nepal, running N.W.,
well timbered with 4000 ft. of which
I got some acorns, at 6000 ft. came to
the Poyong Bamboo (which grows next to
below the alpine, {Chinensis} or Phisung)
& with this a Callunus (Rhen) both
with the Platanus or tree-fern
all the bottom of the valley (5000 ft.) is
a very beautiful jungle, quite broad &
flat, densely timbered with Ficus, Prich &
walnut, no oaks, one Magnolia I think
new, & abundance of the curious Senec.
Streams meander along its ^{flat} base, amongst
the roots of the enormous trees, & it is
altogether a fine place. - For 8 miles we
continued W.S.W. & then came to a more
open part of the valley, with cultivation
on the N. slopes, (i.e. those exposed to
S.) of the usual cerealia. - To the
W.S. a low ridge cuts us off from the
plains, & to the N. others rise, all
however lower than young & the whole
country more open. Due to the hills
trend S. & ~~at least~~ deflect the Mying
from W.S.W. to South: after a course of

of about 10' in the former direction, the
said hills are steep, of picturesque outline
the deciduous ^{they say} trees through them, & the
fat of Nam is nestled in a valley whose
mouth alone we saw at some distance,
all but obscured with lowering clouds.
& shut in on all sides by their sides.
While continuing down the Mying valley
where floors very broad we brought up ^{comparatively speaking say 3/4 mile up} ~~to~~ ^{tolerable} ~~place~~
on a plain, surrounded on all sides except
S.W. by spurs of the range to S, N, & W.
The elevation is about 4000 ft. but owing
to the heat many of the plants of
the lower range occur there at Karsing
also many hills where plants are
brought down by the Mying; & these together
make a thorny jungle

The weather is middling, heavy showers
& gloomy, all convincing me that the
plainsward slopes catch more rain & have
a longer rainy season than the interior
ranges. I dare say they have more fine
weather during the rains, but it stands
to reason that the first hills the Pelagic
wind reach, must be long & rained
upon & I can reach the never having
seen a fair sky to the South since Sept. 8.

with care to save the expenditure of
pence or shillings in the lower region, when
we attain the upper, beyond I shall
watch your interests.

I hope you can read this crabbled hand,
for my sake, not yours, for there can be
little to amuse your solitary hours - I
have no convenience for writing & of course
I revert at nights & mornings, much &
long to the analogous hours are devoted
to chatting. Indeed my ~~prognosis~~ ^{prognosis} with you
has formed an era in my life for I never
have been so long & so constantly in the
society of any sound thinking naturalist,
except my own Father: & I have far more
than all this to bind me to you; the sympathy
which you prolonged illness must excite
in the mind of any one who receives via voce
a store of materials which he would far see
in print & which at length become so
familiar, that he is apt to regard them
as original ideas of his own: - The earnest desir-
tribution with all your friends to see you
comfortable in England, & the many, many
doubts, as to whether the climate or the
customs would prove disagreeable. On the
one hand I see that in India you are exposed

see & hear of events which I see ^{previous} you
& the more so as your ^{previous} career gave every
prospect of your once holding a position in
which you might have furthered or checked
the course of things which I see still deeply
interests you, but over which you have
now no control. On the other I know that
the selfish policy at home is to disregard the
servant whose service term has expired &
that whereas there is no point of honor in which
you would not be ruined at once with loss &
ruin, it is my conviction your personal
friends & relations in England that either one
matter will be accorded, without passing through
an ordeal from which every man of your age
& principles must shrink. You will not
I know think these words intrusive, for you
have accorded me a confidence in these matters
beyond what gray years demanded & you
beyond what your previous knowledge of the
world would have justified had you not
felt perfectly satisfied as to the propriety of
accepting me as I was. I am far from slow
in forming friendships, if I have made but
few it is because I too have seen & known
what the world is made of & do not care
to call any one a friend whom I do not regard
with something more than common friendship.
It is true that my best friends have been

