

Lingju July 29. 1867
Please send me some Rupees.

My dear Mr.

I much more pleased with
my story of the Pass, which I do with
feelings of great self-gratification, &
which I doubt not you Mansfield
will.

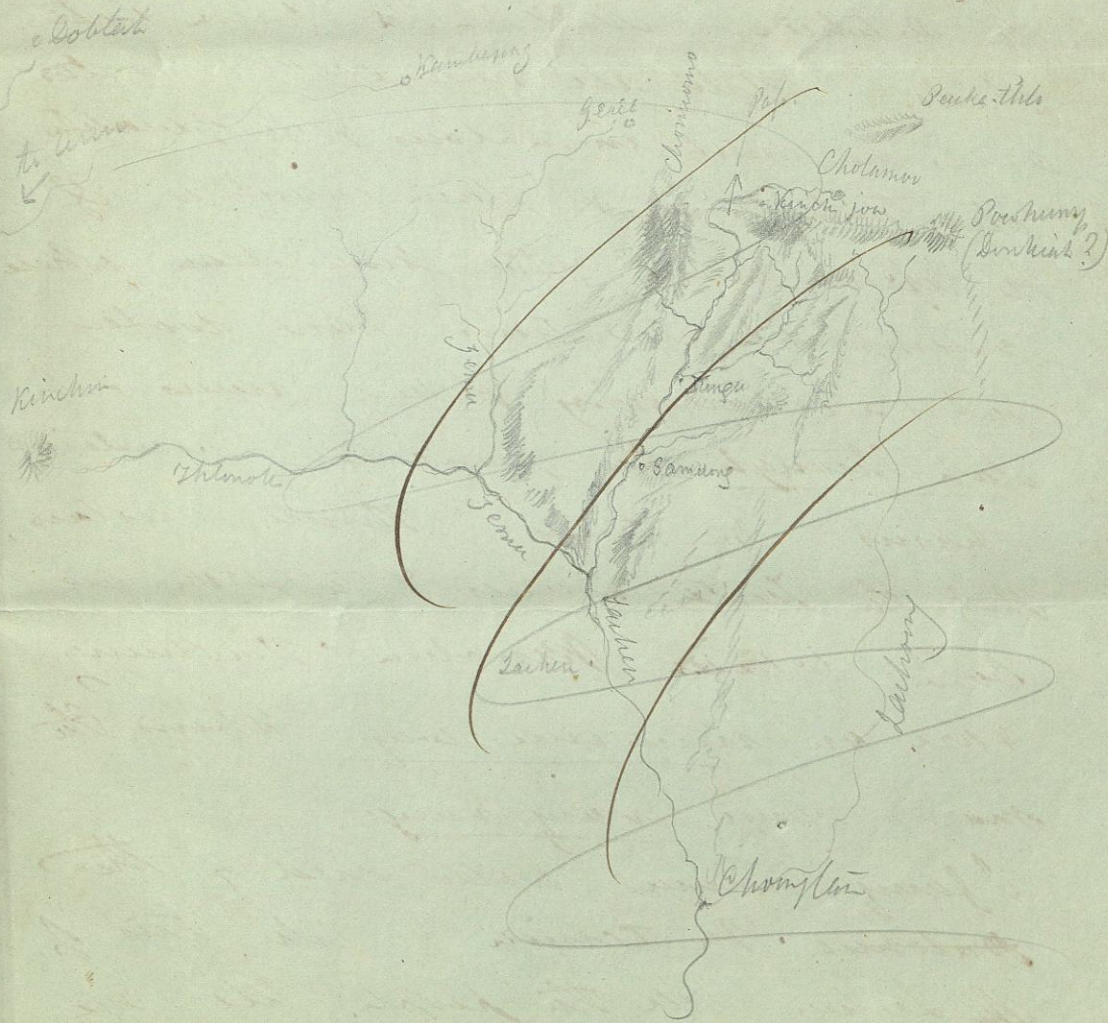
During the whole way we did not
pass a patch of snow, nor did I see
any ~~ice~~ except up a glacier bound, or
rather ice-bound gully, facing S.E. There
was not a particle for 1000 - I should say
1500 ft up the flank of Chomvins on
Kinchin-joo. & the top of the Pass had
a good many flowers. - Not a bush
seen of ^{swamp} Rhododendron. The weather was
pretendedly cold, with strong S. wind & we
were swollen by the previous rain. as
usual I had sickness of stomach & a
sweated headache. I cannot tell you
how depressing these symptoms are, the
head feels bound in a vice. the temples

About at very steep & when I stood the
 feeling is as if a knife went through the
 brain. These *Acacia's* look like myrtle & like
 much marjoram. I can't eat when I get back
 to camp, & I call Heaven to witness that I'll
 never go up to 15000ft again.

The Geeree lies N.W., if I made out aright,
 from the top of the Nap, & its waters flow
 into the Thundak, by the lateral valley west
 of the Geeree, on which I descend at some
 length. ^{in June} The way is difficult & hardly
 frequented, but creeps no height so great
 as Kingra Sama., than which Geeree is
 considerably lower. - Kambajong, the
 military post (not Geeree as I erroneously
 told you) is half a day N.W. of Geeree &
 its waters flow into the Arun! This I
 had from 4 independent authorities.
 The fish-water shed into the Yarow
 is considerably N. of Kambajong! This is
 true is most marvellous, for Kambajong
 must be well east of Kinchin.

All the country south of Kambajong &
 thence south of the road to Dohlah; i.e. at

the back of Kinchin, is a tractless mass of
 mountains, high but not much snowed.
 Kinchin is visible from Dohlah alone,
 but from no where east of that. Now as
 far as I can judge the relative positions
 of these places is thus see other sheet



Now the Patichien flows we all know
N. W. into the ^{Yaloo} ~~Yaloo~~ - viz. these the
watersheds are right, I can only reconcile
them with the idea of a triangular
lofty plateau, from Powlunay to ~~the~~
~~source~~ of the beyond Kien chui, - pointing
towards the Yaloo. - dipping N.E. to
the Patichien & N.W. to the Aron water
sheds. - Afta all river sheds & water
courses are much anomalous & inexplicable
in all table-land & plain countries. Of
the African rivers & the Australia, where
contemptible elevations throw waters
out of all reckoning & where rivers cut
slab through the principal mountain
chains. One thing I think is certain,
that the Tenta sources & the Aron are
both between Kien chui & Powlunay,
& are an immense way behind the
main range, very range.

I fancy Turners water shed of the
Patichien Matchien is like this of
the Saken. All the people tell me
that Pari flat is a flat & a very broad

valley - such a flat as there but
twice as big - & I can quite suppose
the true Pap N. of Chumalai is like
the Kengra same. & with the features
of V. L. Turners description precisely
tallies. - My conclusion we know
tend to the grandiose & the existence of
such remarkable breadth in the chain
between Chumalai & Kien chui, & the
throwing back of the water shed - being
opposite the Bay of Bengal, must have
some bearing, if we agree with Humboldt,
Sill Sedgwick & Jean de Lubau that
all the world has been under water.

I ascended Chumino to I guess
17000 ft. the other day, on a day of
expense, but did not meet with
a particle of snow ~~there~~ except what
fell the previous night. for we had
a good fall of 14000 ft & upwards
& 4 inches fell on Kengra same. I came
on Chumino & the ~~about~~ ^{flat} top of a ridge
of flat stones, which suddenly dipped

N. & the snow fell & fog were so
thick I dare not go further.

Yesterday I made a grand effort for
the Perpetual Snow of Kin-chin-jow
I went up the Tumpo-choo (~~from~~ ^{the East})
which flows from Kin-chin-jow S. West to
the Lachen at Tumpo - The road is
good - at 15000 ft the stream runs
tranquil & pools for miles - as does the
Lachen at 15000 ft. - All the country
south of Kin-chin-jow was beautiful
rolling plains & hills, no where above
¹⁶⁰⁰⁰
~~15000~~ ft. to which the ridge between
the Tumpo choo & Lachen rose in
isolated low sloping knolls.

These flats are all grassy & beautiful,
the Tumpo choo runs in a very broad
flat bottomed valley amongst them
& every where are black tents of
Yaketaam Yak sheep & wool goats in
two ^{varieties} species. - it is a splendid place
I have been twice over these flats

once on horse back galloping for
miles & miles in every direction as free as
the wind.

Kin-chin-jow rises out of these
undulating meadows. on to which it
is flanked by short abrupt rocky clays
on to which it abruptly descends in
snowy precipices. - divided - this can
be a fope - the water drain - which
fope is deep broad bottomed & abruptly
divides perpetual snow & rocky debris
from grass meadow-land.

The ascent from 15000 to 17000 ft was
very slow & slight - & at ~~that~~ 17000 ft
I came abruptly on a steep rocky narrow
spur of rock & a little beyond it ^{on} the
Perpetual Snow. in sheer cliffs of ice &
snow reaching to the summit, i.e. 7-4000 ft
high, & several hundred thick. Kin-chin-
jow you know presents a wall face to
the South - ^{My course was} ~~the~~ ^{North} to about
the middle of ^{the map of Kin-chin} ~~it~~ ^{the} ~~map~~ & so steep is
this wall & little broken by recumbent
rocks, that this trapper does never

barrier, stretched E & W. at a uniform level for many miles. It was a most stupendous sight. Unfortunately the weather was very bad, a dense curtain of mist hung over all the upper part of the Mt., from under which this great snow bed descended appearing on a cliff of debris to the East, & again a short rocky spur to West. I never conceived any thing so grand with your travels you might almost touch the snow the grass & rock.

It snowed & sleeted more heavily than I ever saw it. The Herald. You could get no shelter, for the ice & rock were too dangerous to crawl under - we spent two hours, much wetted as we must, & I took time of boiling water most carefully. - Now the water of all this tremendous mass of snow is, for 5 miles at least, collected into a stream, which at the height of the rains, you might drink up! & which for 4 miles does not flow at all

For many furlongs you see no drainage whatever from the snow. I asked many people about this table-land & have collected much curious information. It grows here at 15,000 ft. ^{throughout the summer} ~~is~~ ^{commonly} ~~is~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} night 2 inches ^{thick} ~~fall~~, the same as at Kongre-Lame. but within this nor two nights rain, nor the literally swaling snow & sleet I experienced, swells the Yungu choo, to speak of. The people laugh when I speak of this, ^{country rivers} in comparison with the drainages of Kien-shui pingya & all the ranges south of this. They say this is Cheen - the same Cheen that goes from Sam-dang to Si-yanchi & the sun takes up above snow water! We drink snow in winter, in summer catch the cloud in the little rills & pools you see. - I was very much struck with the circle or rather, side courses of this table land south of

Kimberly goes, & the impossibility of
tracing their courses & even of finding
the way without compass or guide,
the elevations are so low & the valleys
so broad & similar.

The people tell me that in China
there are no villages off the main roads
nor any roads but the main. This &
their utter ignorance of the compass or
Pole-star is incompatible with their
being any extent of Plains. I am
inclined to abolish that word, as being
necessarily comparative with the
Plains of India, of Africa, of Australia
of La Plata. - & proposing that we
confine ourselves to the terms Plateau
& Table land, ~~the~~ neither of which
involve any idea of continuity of level
surface - such as the above-said countries
present. -
I have read Strachey with some
profit; though it contains nothing
absolutely new, it is the best exposure of
facts I have seen - still he stumbles

badly & it is neither the reputation of
a man of education nor gentleman. I shall
have heaps of notes for you. - it is not
worth your while taking up the matter
of the note, to which I say, disquisitions I
may maintain at the Sub. Heriol. I shall
not even allude, profound contempt is
which deserves - when such men as
Fulmer, Ruge, & Madder, Hadger and
soon enough, as Geologists, men of
science or surveyors of practical & scientific
take the same view as we do. The
coxcomby of such a note from a pedant
profoundly ignorant of any & all of our
several branches of science or art, is
rather amusing. The more so as you
may properly get him out of his own
mouth. - Throughout Strachey's paper
there is a tone of smugging self-satisfaction
& the gravest want of acknowledging
the author of ~~the~~ many facts, which he
revels as his own. This is a small fish
after all. By the way whilst Thomson
is denying all plateau stations, even, to
Thibet. Strachey is calling all Plains

Certainly Thomson's picture of ~~the~~ the
Ladakh territory is not promising. And
the definition of the relation amongst
breadth of valley, slope & that of sub-
belts dividing them, appears conclusive
about that part; but I speak from
memory & read his little pamphlet - one thing
is flat - that the very Manasarovar country
he denotes plain features to, & Strachey calls
plains. Thomson's conception of the
real axis from Lhasa to Manasarovar is
a grand one, & reminds me of the Guernsey
Parish, who passed for the Islands Guernsey,
Jersey, Alderney, Sark, & the ~~other~~ adjacent
Islands of Great Britain & Ireland -

Still I suppose G. has heard something
of a meridional belt there-away & the
greater sweep he makes of his conclusions
therefrom, the better pleased you maybe,
who can put things in their right
places. - Now ~~if~~ there is something
very Geographical in Strachey, Thomson & the
whole gang up there - The whole tone
of G.'s correspondence is changed; & I am
convinced that within a Soldier's life

now a junk one is improving at all:
I feel myself adopting a supercilious tone
which I pray may not merge into Strachey's
dogmatical disagreeable style - but depend
upon it the retaliatory style is resorted
to Philosophy - & this Humboldt never
has committed himself - by this Mullens
has lost himself & Sabbage, & many others -
& so I would beseech you to abstain from
uncovering Strachey, except by an essay,
not aimed at him, but in which his
view may possibly come under notice.
Though when my honor it is beneath notice
from the like of you - As to Thomson, the
Lep said the letter, till I see him. His
Lhasa map is summat. - Not of the moon.

In the mean time I am too busy with
this curious country here to dwell much
on the N. W., if you can lay hold of
information as to the course of the waters
between Kambajing & Djanahi it would
be most important what I can make out is
that the Rhee is the first into the
Yarrow which flows from S. E. W. range
of hills several marches South of Kambajing

These hills are well marked & on them
alone the Kiang is found! along the
road to Sijanki. I therefore guess it
to belong to the Northern part of the
triangular plateau & to separate the
"flowing Garrow" from the Arun waters.

Do make up your notes of the Tibetan
map from Nepal. Except that
there is a road from Sijanki to Ladak
via Mamasarow & Rodok. we know
nothing of that long track & by the
way Thomson is ignorant of that road,
though Strachey mentions it & the
people here know it. but no one
but Lamas & the Chinese mail
frequent it: they understand it is
a good road all along.

As to any ~~Chinese~~ Tibetan penetration: this
quarter it is ridiculously out of the
question, the very different relations
are established with Sikkim & Tibet.
I now regard my grandam hope, faint
and was as supremely ridiculous.

In the N.W. it is different: there the

people are ours, up to the frontier; here
you have Sikkim opposition for all
matters up to the great range &
Sikkim + Chuen Thence on to the frontier;
Chuen + Lhasa after that. - & I do not
imagine one could go far except by the
main road. - When we have
leave to travel unimpeded: Sikkim &
without a Nepalese guide guard & why,
a little may be done by bribing these
Lachen & Lachung Soubahs, but they
could not carry you beyond Geree. &
Chuen & Sikkim - Thote are so intimately
mixed for ²⁶ miles south of the
frontier, that I doubt any thing being
done N. of Kongre Lama. - Indeed
no results of consequence can be obtained
except by a journey all the way to the
Garrow - Kongre Lama is situated
the top of the Plateau: this meridian
15500 ft. N. of Sijanki. Thence to Sijanki
now 15200 is the Mamasarow as well.
so that it is probable Sijanki will not
prove more than 12000 ft. Thence you

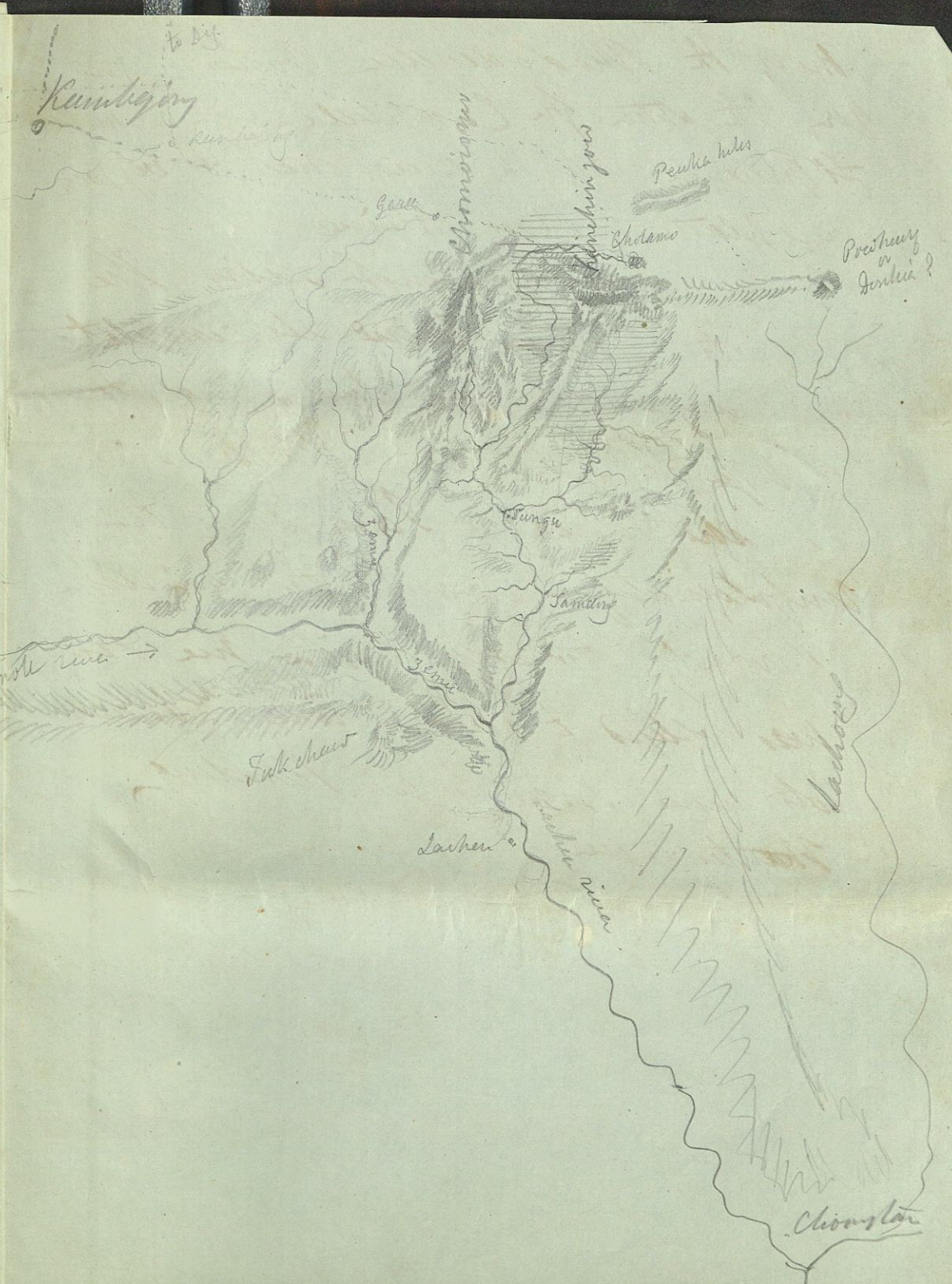
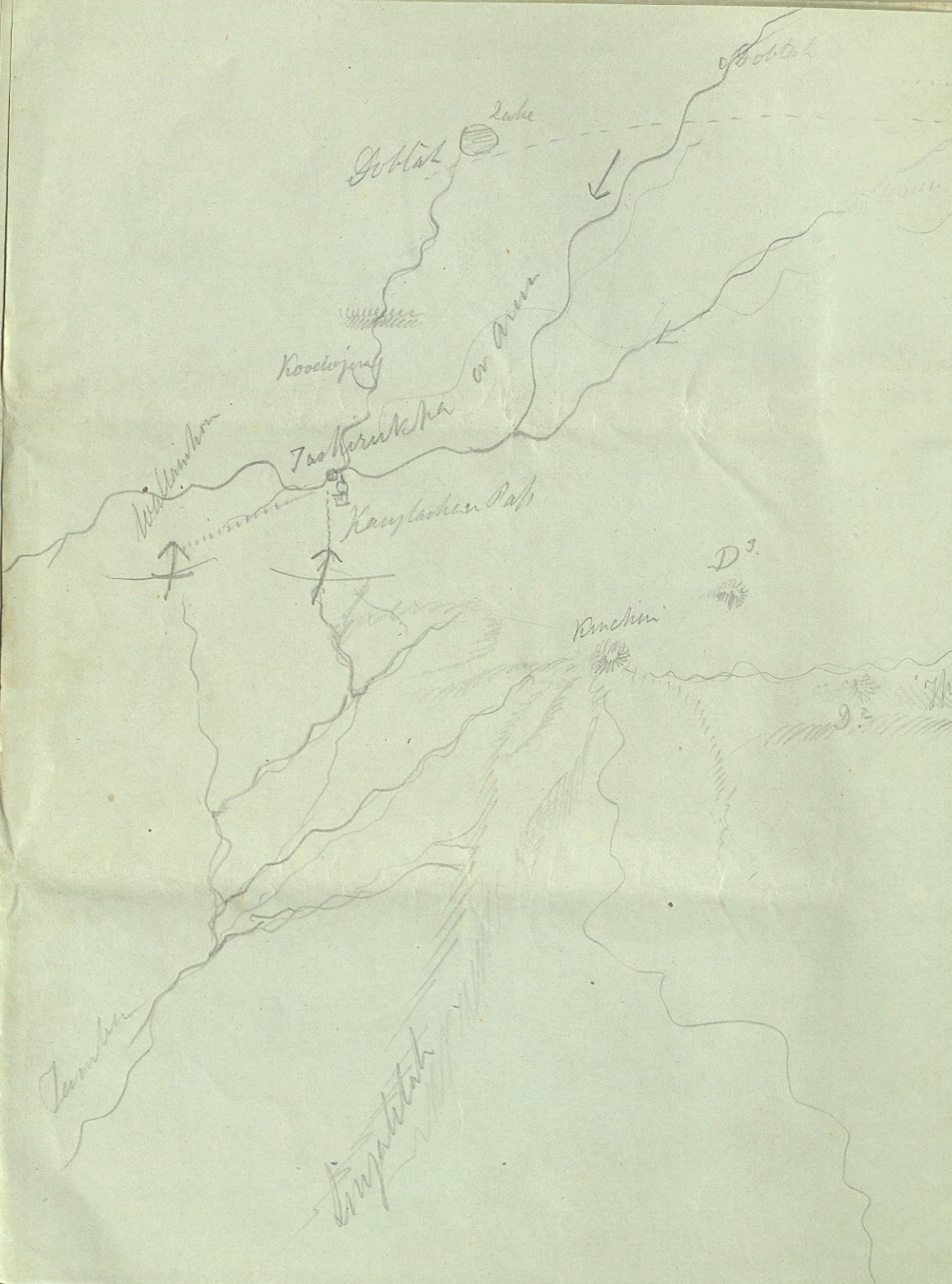
smoke all the way to Lhasa where
walnuts grow & which all the world
say is much warmer than Sijanki
you Petrus suspicion alone opens hopes
of clearing up particulars. - Most of this
it is altogether a puzzle. I have made
a great hole in the geography here, but
only to offer more difficulties & greater than
we supposed the origin of ones were.

- July 30th Since writing the above I
have been pumping the people by
means of sowing the ground, stones &c.
They give a very consistent view of the
country. I suspect them repeatedly & ~~at~~
level
in all manner of by-blows at their information
& they stand it better than I expected,
- nor does any thing contravert Campbell's
route, or the information of Lt. E. Neel -
All agree Gerec is N.W. from Kongra
Lama - Kambajing N.W. again or more
probably & thence the route is N. to
Sijanki. Breathing is affected at
3 several crossings en route. ^{to Sijanki} one
between Gerec & Kambajing, around

North of Kambajing. - A third, considered
the greatest, ^{range} of all, is the Yarrow range,
& marks south of Sijanki thence
probably Campbell's Kianglah. - at least
the Kiang is found on the S. face of the
range & there only en route to Sijanki.
The ridge is rounded just snowed -
all the water ~~from the S. face~~ north of
Kambajing ^{as far north as} this range (about 4 months
I think from the South & West face of
this range, flows to the Arun, - thence
from North of it - to the Yarrow. - The
Lachen Soubah much particularly
indicated this, said a river comes
from the S. face, another from the West
face & meeting soon forms, he believes,
the head of the Arun.
Kumbin jing is S.W. of Kambajing.
& S.E. of Dabtab. He does not know
any thing of ^{that triangle} this country - no body
does. That he knows as I have asked
all are bare mountainous with very
little snow - West of Chommin along

ancient glacial action - I am reading
the Athenaeum with great gusto as usual.
Dear Cobden is miserable trash, I am
very glad to have seen it however.

The Singtam Sumbah, now my
guide, is a very civil well behaved man
but evidently instructed to get me out
of the country as fast as he possibly can.
really this is much aggravating &
insulting, considering the nature of my
duties & their absorbing interest. I cannot
tell you half the worry worry the Rajah
has put me to - how I should like to
get him soundly drubbed. Campbell seems
to have said that I will return without
delay as soon as I have been to the Larkoy
frontier, I hope this is remediable, if not it
is fatal to my finishing the Sikhia Flora.
& disastrous - but I think I must nevertheless
live - after failing to bully me out of the country
to apply to the Govt. is almost incredible - but he
has trap enough for any thing. That's the
name of Sikhia Rajah. Dear & affectionate
John



One of the Rhododendron books is for
you the other for Campbell. it is my
H present but he desires me to bestow
our plate of it as mine.

I send you a Marmot skin. The
soft parts I put in brine all complete
from tongue to vent but I had to
cut the skin in two. The head is
all shot to pieces I am sorry to say
unfortunately I drank the last drop
of brandy I took out with me & you
was obliged to me brine. I have
lots more Brandy at Scoundeng;
Hants town.