

Samuelson (Campbell's Landing)
July 15th.

My dear Sir,

I filled 4 pages of postscript
& also postscript them to you on the 13th;
but the intensity was just reached
and of the cooling having left his
fronting my letters, crisp & steam.

I therein told you that I found this
place to be quite what I expected, a
country of low hills, through which the
Lanka river runs, 11500 ft. above the
sea, with flatish terraces along its
banks, of no extent. The general
nature of the hills is exactly what I
saw at the Zeme river. They rise
to about 14000 ft & are grassy & sloping.

We know whatever is to be seen hereabouts
& I am assured that neither E. W. or N.
(near hand) are there any mountains or high snow.

This a long half day journey from this
to the frontier which is on a low range

of hills by this river, & thence the
route into Tibet, north, is for a long
days march, like this, ^{sharply} wooded; on the
third day you have only grass & the
4th march is amongst stony ranges
with interesting plants. - the trees
trees, Tibet.

My great lake is called Choyaribo
said to be a long way N.E. of this,
& north of Cholamoo, rising out of the
Plain of Tibet. I ascended a S.E.
slope to-day to 14000 ft, all grass,
no jungle, but scanty trees of Pine &c
The weather was so dull that my
view was limited to the immediate
neighborhood of my position - & I saw
at 14000 amongst shallow valleys,
quite unlike any thing Himalayan
all grassy with scarce a patch of
snow. The Animal plants ascended

feet 1000 ft. higher than any where I
have been, & I doubt not the snow line
is proportionally elevated. I procured a
great many new plants, some of the
Tibetan type.

The Lachen river ^{runs} north from this
1/2 march, through low hills & flats,
& then turns East to Cholamoo.

My information is gradually becoming
more precise & I have had long talks
with the Sington Nubak, who appears
intelligent & trustworthy. I know the route
well. - He assures me there is no
snow north of this on the Djangkai,
where the road is highest. - He cannot
exactly say, but ^{when the road joins} 3 marches beyond this,
all is bare & you descend all the
way to Djangkai, of this his position.

All appear calling this country
Mun'dan. even my Sepoys & British
coolies, & this I suppose it gives my
pronounced notion of the Tibetan

plain, & has led me to the water
the most pointed enquiries. Happily I
have now, what I always wanted, a
medium of comparison & both the
Suytan & Kasher Soubaks, and thus,
give the affirmation, that hence,
north to Sijunkie, the country is very
like this, only the hills are lower, quite
naked & the more sloping, the flats
larger. No villages are seen from
any distance, it is up & down the
whole way. The road winds amongst
high hills & crosses lower, is always
good, though often stony, crosses no snow,
but little patches are frequent on
many ridges which rise above the
valley as high as these above the
river.

Sijunkie is very cold, stony & barren &
mountainous in hills, perpetually covered
his very sparingly ~~is~~ or some of the
ridges are various directions. North of

Lakes interspersed. We too agree that the
general features of Tibet are like this
All I can say is, that this country is as little like
Sichuan, as it is to my previous notion of Tibet.
I was particularly struck with the but valleys
the contrast

B H Hodgson

with a
skin bottle

You need not
return me I enclose
letter no. 16
other

The Rev Mr VIII
Dec 21 Aug 9

only 5 miles
people calling
is
was
much was
plans of
the all range

upon range of ~~rocks~~ & very little flats, like this river
terrace, all stony & barren, with snowing ^{Cholamoo} mountains
about. The descent from Lachung to this ^{Cholamoo} plain
is not great - If it appears Chogyarib is
near Cholamoo & is high, due to ^{Cholamoo} Poochun,
the Cholamoo plain cannot be expected to be very
level. & if further, Poochun be not Dauliah-lah
three such mountains indicate a very rugged
country. - My notion is yours too, that a table
land extend N. of Sichuan - This declines no
doubt from Poochun (perhaps from Chumalain)
west to my position - it also declines north to
the Yarrow. I am now assuredly well north of all
characteristic Himalayan features - this ^{Cholamoo} landscape,
though north of the watershed, which, (high or low
(undoubtedly lower than the ranges south of me)
is the true Himalayan axis. - I feel myself quite
out of Sichuan here, though by no means Tibet;
still I could fancy myself in a table land this
morning, when at 14000 ft. I descended amongst broad
mountain ridges with shallow valleys, no
snow & the rocks only creating the ridges - grass

Lakes water period. The two aspects that the
general features of Thibet are like this
All I can say is, that this country is as little like
Sichuan, as it is to my previous ideas of Thibet.
I was particularly struck with the but valleys
this morning, & considering how violent the contrast
is between these hills valleys & those only 5 miles
south of us, I do not wonder at the people calling
all Thibetan. Though the same wide flats is
incorporated inferior to the Yangma Tenasser. in
extent & level surface.

The Soukale says I shall see as much & as
long as I like from Lachoway, over the plain of
Thibet & Cholanoo. But that I shall see some
when range of ^{hills} & very little flats, like this river
terrace, all stony & barren, with snowing mountains
about. The descent from Lachoway to this ^{Cholanoo} head on
is not great - If it appears Choy aribo is
near Cholanoo. & is high, close to ^{the} Poochunoy,
the Cholanoo plain cannot be expected to be very
level. If further, Poochunoy be not Dauliah-lah
three such mountains indicate a very rugged
country. - My notion is your's too, that a table
land extends N. of Sichuan - This declines no
doubt from Poochunoy (perhaps from Chumalai)
west to my position - it also declines north to
the Yarrow. I am now assuredly well north of all
characteristic Himalayan features: this longitude,
through north of the watershed, which, high or low
(undoubtedly lower than the ranges south of me)
is the true Himalayan axis. - I feel myself quite
out of Sichuan here, though by no means Thibet;
still I could fancy myself in a table land this
morning, when at 14000 ft. I wandered amongst broad
mountain ledges with shallow valleys no
snow & the rocks only creating the ridges - grass

2) D. and the Garon (which flows near to & little below the level of the town) the hills are more rugged & flats smaller, but more rice & sugar, though so rugged & incessant, that it is a month's journey for laden gales to the Sukh county, which is no great actual distance.

From Digaubi, back to the "great lake of the Garon" (this people call it) the whole country is mountainous - flats of various extent, like that of Phai, some sandy, some stony, all bare, occur between all the ridges - The villages are never seen from a distance, & are like this, collections of stone hovels on the slopes or flats between the ranges. Shapa stands on a great plain, its Gorn-pas being visible for half a days journey all round. The horizon is rocky & very hilly, but the Soubah does not recollect seeing perpetual snow any where. There is no plain ^{in Tibet} as large as Shapa any where else that he knows of. The town itself is really Phai chosen - no other part of the plain of Tibet is plain like Shapa, all is mountain like this! but not a continuous flat of half a days' extent.

The Garon is very rapid, but no where cuts a very deep channel, its bed rocky & many places. Below Shapa it is navigable, but he has seen no boats above that town, & there are none at Digaubi, i.e. he saw none.

Phai occupies a mountain, surrounded by high hills exactly like these, but bare & stony - After leaving it & crossing three hills, you descend towards ^{Digaubi} Shapa, always crossing other two ranges. My friend Coolin, an excellent man knows it well & confirms this. He says that all round the base of Chumalan are ranges of stony hills, with flat

July - where

I have indeed failed for views, & would give willingly 1000 R. for a good prospect for 15000 ft., but so uniformly empty is this region, that I quite despair, & often think how much credit is due to travellers who toil for geographical discovery alone, with no love of Natural History to draw them on. What I saw today, from the Gorn, perfectly coincides with what the people say of all these hill tops, that they are broad, grassy, with shallow ravines & no great mountains amongst them - how far we are to trust their further comparison with the Tibetan plateau, is another question. Lachung should ^{in that} tell an volume. - What weighs most with me, ^{in that} throughout my long conversations with my ^{own} coolies, Sherpas & the Soubah, they are always referring to & comparing with the features around me, to L. Nepal & S. Tibet. I never could elicit the remotest comparison. You have seen when I see any such mountain like these is their constant affirmation, how this has all the appearance of a very mountainous plateau, & is no doubt the verge of the Tibetan ditto - though better grasped, wooded & watered, & more varied, though perhaps equally free from any lofty ridges or peaks. very deep valleys.

Little rain falls here, & little snow in winter comparatively speaking, though enough to render it inhabitable further south the rain & snow become gradually less & less, ceasing where the vegetation ceases. It is very windy too here, another Plateau feature.

17th I have had another talk with the Soubah. Soubah who questioned me about England & America he has been a Purmish Adventurer. He remarks that the Chien Mountain was quite another affair & that of Purmish, the latter was a flat mountain, the former

no where a flat & very where mount arrives.

I am better again about getting to the
Pap. The Tibetan Lama's letter (which I could not
get translated till arriving here) says nothing about
a late Pap - only - "take the subject to the frontier
against Samding" - Sam at Samding & the Lasha
Soubah is trying on a fearful rate. The Singtam
Soubah is the head man ^{but} & proper his ignorance.

of camp bell 2
B. H. Hoagland
Dijiding

Hooker
- nos 2 July 23

I have represented completely with further particulars
I hope he will get the Tibetan Lama to write to the
Singtam Soubah & tell him as he did (as possible
what the Pap really is - I still hear news from
Kampa Pahar & the stone boundary. What a shuttle
- could I have seen this last 3 months!

Very affectionately
J. H. Hooker