

an almost equal northern latitude (from $30^{\circ} 45'$ to 31°), the snow-line on the southern declivity of the Himalaya lies at an elevation of 12,982 feet, which is about the same as the height which we might have assigned to it from a comparison with other mountain chains; on the northern declivity, however, under the influence of the high lands of Thibet (whose mean elevation appears to be about 11,510 feet), the snow-line is situated at a height of 16,630 feet. This phenomenon, which has long been contested both in Europe and in India, and whose causes I have attempted to develop in various works, published since 1820,* possesses other grounds of interest than

As the volcano of Aconcagua was not at that time in a state of eruption, we must not ascribe the remarkable phenomenon of the absence of snow to the internal heat of the mountain (to the escape of heated air through fissures), as is sometimes the case with Cotopaxi. Gillies, in the *Journal of Natural Science*, 1830, p. 316.

* See my *Second Mémoire sur les Montagnes de l'Inde*, in the *Annales de Chimie et de Physique*, t. xiv., p. 5-55; and *Asie Centrale*, t. iii., p. 281-327. While the most learned and experienced travelers in India, Colebrooke, Webb, and Hodgson, Victor Jacquemont, Forbes Royle, Carl von Hügel, and Vigne, who have all personally examined the Himalaya range, are agreed regarding the greater elevation of the snow-line on the Thibetian side, the accuracy of this statement is called in question by John Gerard, by the geognosist MacClelland, the editor of the *Calcutta Journal*, and by Captain Thomas Hutton, assistant surveyor of the Agra Division. The appearance of my work on Central Asia gave rise to a rediscussion of this question. A recent number (vol. iv., January, 1844) of MacClelland and Griffith's *Calcutta Journal of Natural History* contains, however, a very remarkable and decisive notice of the determination of the snow-line in the Himalayas. Mr. Batten, of the Bengal service, writes as follows from Camp Semulka, on the Cosillah River, Kumaon: "In the July, 1843, No. 14 of your valuable *Journal of Natural History*, which I have only lately had the opportunity of seeing, I read Captain Hutton's paper on the snow of the Himalayas, and as I differed almost entirely from the conclusions so confidently drawn by that gentleman, I thought it right, for the interest of scientific truth, to prepare some kind of answer; as, however, on a more attentive perusal, I find that you yourself appear implicitly to adopt Captain Hutton's views, and actually use these words, 'We have long been conscious of the error here so well pointed out by Captain Hutton, in common with every one who has visited the Himalayas,' I feel more inclined to address you, in the first instance, and to ask whether you will publish a short reply which I meditate; and whether your note to Captain Hutton's paper was written after your own full and careful examination of the subject, or merely on a general kind of acquiescence with the fact and opinions of your able contributor, who is so well known and esteemed as a collector of scientific data? Now I am one who have visited the Himalaya on the western side; I have crossed the Borendo or Boorin Pass into the Buspa Valley, in Lower Kanawar, returning into the Rewaien Mountains of Ghurwal by the Koopin Pass; I have visited the source of the Jumna at Jumnotree;