

to June. In December 1845, a great battle was fought near Tirtapouri, in the Gnari-Korsum. The garrison of Takla-Khar escaped by one of those snowy defiles ; but half of them were killed by cold, and most of the survivors suffered from frozen extremities.\*

In the Karakorum the passes remain open nearly all the year, and merchants on their way from Ladak to Turkistan traverse them every winter.

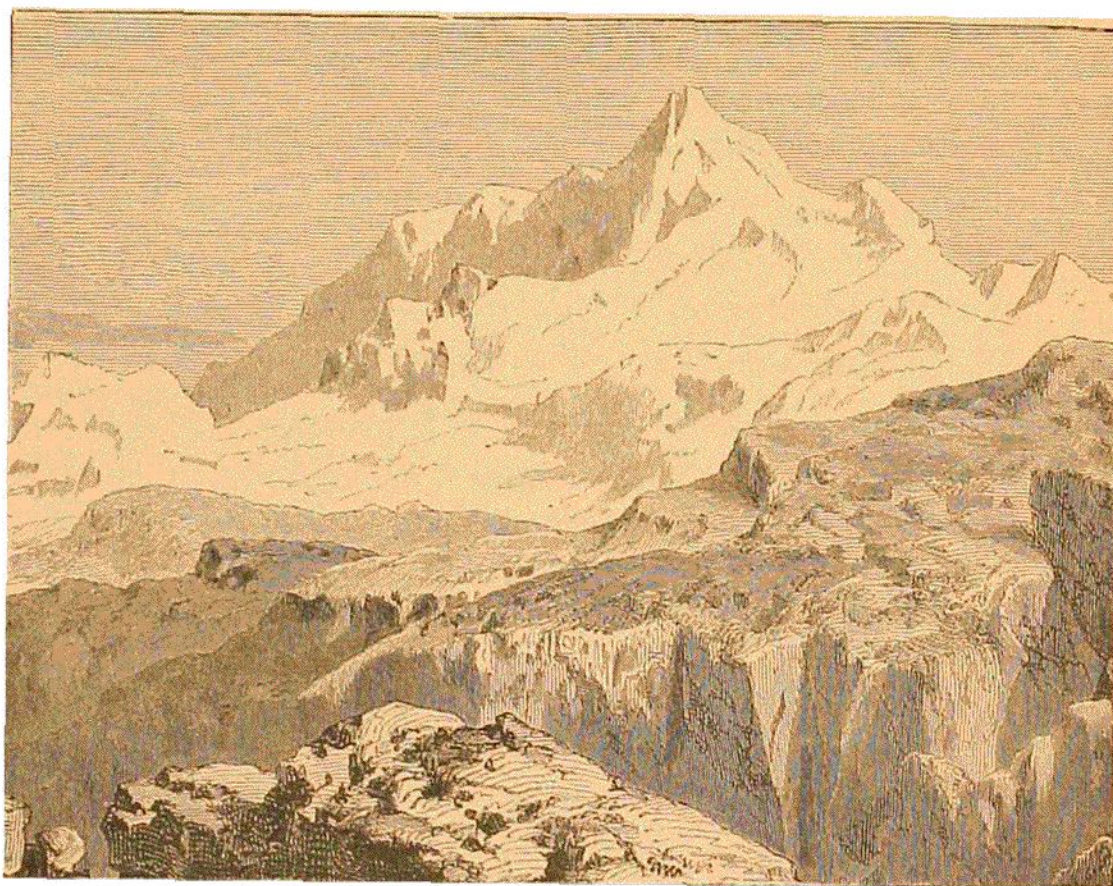


FIG. 65.—VIEW OF GUARISANKAR, THE LOFTIEST MOUNTAIN IN THE WORLD (29,000 FEET).

The loftiest peak of the Himalaya and of the whole world is the *Guarisan kar*,† trigonometrically measured by Major Everest in 1847. It is 29,000 feet above the sea. We delineate it in Figure 65, from a sketch in the magnificent atlas published by the brothers Schlagintweit.

Next in rank, according to elevation, comes the Dapsang, belonging to the Karakorum system, which separates Ladak from Yarkand.

\* [Cunningham, *Ladak*, p. 353.]

† [Sir J. Herschel also gives it the names of Diodunga and Chingopamari. Many English geographers now name it *Mount Everest*.]