

the city of Atak, on the main stream (which rises on the north side of Mount Kailas, in lat. $31^{\circ} 20' N.$, long. $81^{\circ} 30' E.$), and its mouth; and from hence it is navigable. After a gradually diminishing course—its arid sandy bed absorbing its waters, which also spread into a multiplicity of insignificant channels—it reaches at Migani, eight miles north of Hyderabad, the commencement of its Delta. This low-lying and unwholesome tract measures 75 miles in length, and 130 miles in width, along the coast of the Indian Sea.

The total length of the Indus is 1700 miles; the area of its drainage has been computed at 488,000 square miles, or four times the superficial extent of the British Isles.

The *Ganges*, *Ganga*, or “sacred river,” is upwards of 1500 miles in length. During the first half of its course it flows south-east; it then flows east for about 400 miles, through the rich plains of Bengal; and afterwards takes a south-easterly direction.

It rises from a mountain snow-field, 13,800 feet above the sea-level, in lat. $30^{\circ} 54' N.$, and long. $79^{\circ} 7' E.$ After a course of ten miles it reaches the famous temple of Gangoutri, at an elevation of 10,300 feet; about twenty miles lower down, breaks through the gigantic barrier of the Himalaya; rolls onward to Hurdwar (157 miles), on the frontier of the great Indian plain; then, with an average fall of 22 inches in a mile, strikes boldly to the south-east, and after a career of 488 miles reaches Allahabad; receives several important tributaries, flows 563 miles, with a fall of about five inches in a mile; and at Seebjunge, reaches the inland extremity of its delta—a grand labyrinth of waters, which, through various leading channels, flow into the Bay of Bengal.

The *Brahmapootra* is formed by the junction in Assam of two main branches, the *Brahmapootra* proper, and the Sanpoo. It then flows for upwards of 900 miles in a westerly direction to the Bay of Bengal, uniting with the Ganges to form its labyrinthine delta, and communicating with it through several channels. Its total length from the source of the Sanpoo is 1500 miles; from that of the *Brahmapootra*, 900 miles. The Sanpoo rises in the same marsh or swamp as the Indus and Sutlej.]

The ancients gave the name of Mesopotamia (“land between two rivers”) to the region enclosed between the basins of the *Tigris* and the *Euphrates*; a rich and fertile country, which, of old, was the seat of the great Asiatic empires. All the waters of the two rivers flow from the Taurus chain; not a single tributary is furnished to them by the Syrian desert. Their courses are directly parallel, with an inclination from the north-west to the south-east, until they unite, at a point anciently called Digba, to form the *Shat-el-Arab*, which flows into the Persian Gulf; traversing a delta, whose existence, probably, does not date back more than three thousand years. It is even supposed