tants it is called Pue. or Puekoachim ; the first being the term for northern, and the latter for snow ; thus indicating the severity of the climate. The distinguishing feature of this country is its great elevation, being for the most part a table-land, in which the rivers of India and China which run south and east, and those also which run north­ward into Siberia and Tartary, take their rise. Tibet is separated, about the twenty-eighth degree of north latitude, from Bootan by the Sumoonang Mountains, part of the great Himalaya chain ; and the boundaries are marked by a long row of little inscribed flags, fixed in rude heaps of stones, which were seen by Turner when he passed, flut­tering in the wind. The summit of one of the mountains, Chumularee, constitutes the highest land in what is called Little Tibet. It is highly venerated by the Hindus, who resort thither for the purpose of paying their adorations to the snow-clad summit.

Tibet appears at first under a most unfavourable aspect to travellers, and to be in a great measure incapable of cul­ture. It is mountainous towards its frontier bordering on Bootan. Here perpetual winter may be said to reign ; the great mountain of Chumularee is for ever clothed with snow. Its elevation is not precisely known, but this circumstance indicates a height of several thousand feet. In other parts the country exhibits low rocky hills, where no vege­tation is visible, and extensive arid plains, of the most stern and stubborn aspect, and extremely barren. Where the country is capable of cultivation, the usual crops are wheat, pease, and barley. In many parts the grain never ripens. About fourteen miles from Phari, on the frontier moun­tains, Turner saw a small enclosure of green wheat, which had just strength enough to give out its ear, but which, he was told, would proceed no farther, the cold being too in­tense to admit of its ripening. It is cultivated merely as forage for cattle, when the plains become bare of grass, and they are hindered from going abroad during the depth of winter. The periodical rains give birth to a little herbage, whose growth stops immediately as they cease : from the extreme dryness of the air, the grass then begins to wither, so that it may be crumbled between the fingers into dust. Yet large droves of cattle are fed in this neighbourhood, the pasture, though short and dry, being extremely sweet and nutritive ; and animals ranging in a state of nature are found to prefer it to the more exuberant herbage of milder climates. These plains accordingly, as well as the adja­cent mountains, are frequented by large droves of cattle, shawl-goats, deer, musk-deer, horses, great multitudes of foxes, and other wild animals; also by many coveys of part­ridges and pheasants, and some quails. It is the practice of the cultivators in Tibet to flood the low lands on the ap­proach of winter with water, which freezes and covers their surface with a sheet of ice, and thus shelters them from the violent winds, which would strip off the scanty soil. In some parts they pluck up the corn by the root, and afterwards place it in small bundles to dry. From Phari, in the mountains, however, to Nainee, a distance of fifty miles, the country is very little removed in its aspect, po­pulation, or culture, from a perfect desert. The hills are bare, and composed of a stiff, dry, mouldering rock, which splits and shivers with the frost ; and, on account of the severity of the climate, the inhabitants are obliged to seek for shelter in the valleys and hollows. The north winds, meeting with no interruption in the w ide and barren plains, sweep along in furious blasts of the most cutting severity ; and so uniform is the intense cold, that the inhabitants arc in the practice of killing their meat at the beginning of win­ter, and keeping it for three months, at the end of which period it is perfectly fresh.

In Tibet the temperature and seasons exhibit a remark­able uniformity, both in their periodical duration and in their return ; and they exactly resemble those in the more southern region of Bengal. Variable weather prevails in the spring from March to May ; the climate is warm, with thunder-storms and occasional refreshing showers. From June to September is the season of rains, which being heavy and continued, refresh the country, and cause the rivers to overflow, and, descending with rapidity from the mountains in their progress to the sea, to assist in inundating Bengal. From October to March the sky is uniformly clear; it is nei­ther obscured by fogs nor clouds ; and a much more intense degree of cold prevails than is known in the same latitudes in Europe. In these elevated plains the most boisterous winds perpetually prevail, in the dry summer months raising clouds of dust, almost intolerable to the traveller ; and in other seasons, says Turner, “ conveying a degree of cold unknown even in the severest winters in Europe. Such is sometimes the intenseness of the frost here, though in so low a latitude as twenty-eight degrees, that animals expos­ed in the open fields are found dead with their heads abso­lutely split by its force.”@@1

The country, though barren, is not, as already observed, destitute of animal life; it abounds in a great variety of wild fowl, game, beasts of prey, flocks, droves and herds of cat­tle. Among the most remarkable animals is the Yak of Tartary, named also the Soora Goy, or bushy-tailed bull of Tibet. This animal resembles an English bull in height, the general figure of the body, the head, and the legs. He is the *bos grunniens* of modern naturalists. See Mammalia. These cattle, though not large boned, yet, from the profuse quantity of hair with which they are provided, seem to be of great bulk. They have a downcast heavy look, and appear, as indeed they are, sullen and suspicious, discovering much impatience at the approach of strangers. They pasture on the coldest parts of Tibet, on the short herbage peculiar to the summits of mountains and to bleak plains ; their favourite haunt being the chains of mountains situated between twen­ty-seven and twenty-eight degrees north latitude, whose summits are usually covered with snow. During the seve­rity of winter they take shelter in the southern glens ; and in milder seasons they take a wider range on the northern aspect of the mountains. They form a very valuable pro­perty to the tribes of itinerant Tartars, who live in tents, and tend them from place to place : they at the same time afford their herdsmen an easy mode of conveyance, a good covering, and wholesome subsistence. These animals are strong, sure footed, and carry a great weight. They are never employed in agriculture; but are extremely useful as beasts of burden. They afford an abundance of rich milk, the butter produced from which is excellent. It is the cus­tom to preserve this in skins and bladders, and the air be­ing excluded, it will keep in this cold climate throughout the year. The musk-deer is another animal which abounds in Tibet, in the vicinity of the coldest mountains, and produces a valuable article of revenue. He delights in the most intense cold, and in places which border the line of perpetual snow. He has two long curved tusks, which proceed from the upper jaw, and, being directed down­wards, seem intended principally to serve him for the pur­pose of digging roots, his usual food ; or they may be also given as weapons of defence. These animals are about the height of a moderately sized hog, to which they bear a resemblance in the bigness of the body ; but they are still more like the hog-deer. They have *a* small head, a thick and round hind quarter, no snout, and extremely delicate limbs. The body is covered with prodigiously copious hair, which grows erect all over the body, between two and three

@@@\* Turner’s Embassy to the Court of Teshoo Lama in Tibet, p. 210.