

was from them that the river issued. It was evident, that after the snow thawed considerable quantities of water would make their way down to that place. The margins of the brook were well clothed with vegetation. Making an excursion up the glen, $1\frac{1}{2}$ versts above his camp he struck into a large side-glen, which led him up to an undulating, plateau-like highland region, seamed with rain-water channels. At one place it occurred to him that he might be standing on the terraced shore of a former lake situated on the north side of the range. Thirty versts to the east there was an expanse of dunes.

The next camp, in the same valley, was at an altitude of 4954 feet, and had an abundance of poplars and vegetation. Tuge-tau is an imposing granite range, rising into peaks and domes, some of them being 4000 to 5000 feet in relative height. The mountains here are wild and inaccessible. He says: »Tuge-tau is the highest and at the same time the most inaccessible of all the chains in the system of the Tschöl-tagh. Its glens — ravines and gorges cleft in the solid rock — appear to be barren. There is said to be a spring at its eastern end, but it is difficult of access. North of this mountain *massif* is an undulating region, perfectly sterile, extending towards the east.» Grum-Grschimajlo considers, we see, that Tuge-tau belongs to the system of the Tschöl-tagh, though I for my part believe that this is orographically inadmissible. Judging from his and Kosloff's descriptions, and my own observations, the Tuge-tau would, on the contrary, appear to be the principal backbone of the Kuruk-tagh system, and it ought most certainly to be distinguished from the Tschöl-tagh.

A spring, which the traveller discovered at an altitude of 4723 feet, was named by his guide Urus-kijik-urdi-bulak (the Spring where the Russian Killed the Antelope); but he ascertained subsequently that its real name is Saate. It was surrounded by kamisch, and its water, which filled a pool 20 saschen long, was good to drink.

Continuing their journey southwards on 31st October (O. S.), the party crossed some yellowish grey hills of disintegrated diabase, and 5 versts from Saate surmounted a low crest, whence they perceived some imposing crags, rising 1000 feet above the stony desert, and exhibiting a darker coloration than the desert itself. The flanks were everywhere steep, except towards the east, where a low ridge or saddle, with a gentle upward curve, united this part of the system to other crags on the east. These last continued in the same direction until they died away on the eastern horizon.

After going 14 versts, he crossed, by a saddle-shaped pass, yet another rocky crest, which likewise extended to the east, though westwards it terminated in a depression with softly rounded sides. After that the country still continued to be undulating, the heights and ridges stretching from west to east.

After going twenty versts farther the party approached an even more important crest, from the summit of which they perceived, farther on, a broad, extended valley, backed on the south by a massive, but not very high, range, though it was evidently of considerable breadth. This, which forms the southern edge of the Tschöl-tagh system, is probably, according to Grum-Grschimajlo, identical with the range which on our existing maps is called the Kuruk-tagh. He was told, that on the