

The drift-sand lies heaped up on both sides of the pass, though in no great quantity, and without forming dunes. On the northern face of the pass, where patches of snow were still lying, the *suksuk* (saksaul) bushes were large and vigorous; though, strange to say, there was not a single one on the southern side.

On the latter slope the rocks consisted of fine-grained, grey granite and veined granite dipping 67° towards N. 70° W. At Camp No. CXXXIII there was granite in various shades of grey, dark yellow, and reddish yellow, as well as pegmatite. Seen from a distance, the faces of the cliffs had a reddish tinge. They lay at 45° towards N. 5° E.

All day on the 29th January we followed the »road» I have alluded to; it was plainly indicated by cairns of stones, crowning small hills and spurs that jutted out at right angles from the mountains. The »guide-posts» consisted sometimes of a large flat stone and a small one propped one against the other, sometimes of a cubical block with one or two smaller, round stones resting upon it. The road or track itself is for the most part obliterated; nor is that at all surprising, because it runs principally along the bottom of the eroded gully, down which water sometimes flows. The great number of these landmarks indicates that this must once have been a much frequented route; for were it only a by-path, used occasionally, these heaps of stones would not have been built. Possibly it may have been used by pilgrims bound for Lhasa.

When looking across the desert from the termination of the Anambaruin-gol, we seemed able to distinguish clearly two parallel desert-ranges; but all this day we travelled amongst nothing but small hills, forming a labyrinth of groups and detached knots, seldom arranged in distinct ridges and chains. Their outlines are not however rounded, but the bare rock is exposed almost everywhere. Some of these groups of rocky heights are of pretty respectable dimensions, and rise steeply and abruptly from the desert, their bases unencumbered by any talus slope. It almost looks as though the transportable matter were relatively speedily pulverised by the atmospheric elements and at once swept away. And yet there would appear to have been in reality two parallel crests, for whilst crossing this desert-range, as we were then doing, at right angles, we traversed two distinctly marked passes.

Upon leaving Camp No. CXXXIII we travelled north along the watercourse which starts below the first pass, and found it grow gradually bigger as it picked up tributories from both sides. All the same, it did not appear to be the principal watercourse of the locality, for it was joined by three others from the right, all bigger than itself, and coming apparently from loftier, broader parts of this first desert-range. In the south-eastern prolongation of each of these three valleys there is a gap or notch, corresponding to a pass over the range, and far away in the same direction we could just make out, like a light flosky cloud, a snow-clad shoulder or summit of the gigantic Anambaruin-ula. From glimpses that we obtained of the country to the north-east, it appeared to be in that direction considerably lower. There were, it is true, some reddish heights; whether they were dunes or fragmentary mountains, I was quite unable to determine.

The lower part of our valley is very broad, the mountains receding on both sides, and all that remains in the vicinity of the road are small clusters of hills. At