

by the play and contrast of colour, white and blue, of snow and cloud, of shadow and light.

Where the principal river is joined by its tributary there is a broad expanse of alluvium, grey, barren, and very level. From that point we directed our march towards the west-north-west, and made Camp XXII (alt. 4976 m.) in the throat of a small glen on the southern flank of the range that we had last crossed, where the grazing was passably good. In this respect the slopes that face south are the most favourable. Here every glen and hollow had its tinkling rivulet; we had no need to search for water, as we had had to do in the Astin-tagh system.

All day the predominant rock was black schist, partly laminated, partly hard and greenish; in one place there were a number of granite blocks, proving the existence of this rock somewhere higher up.

In making a journey like this through an absolutely unknown region one is constantly tempted to make side-excursions, now in the one direction now in the other, so as to enlarge one's horizon and obtain a general view of the conformation of the country. It would, for instance, have been extremely interesting to follow the big river of the day before both up to its source-regions and down towards its mouth, so as to get a clear and connected idea of the hydrographical and orographical morphology within its drainage area. The temptation was equally strong to stay a while in the vicinity of Camp No. XXII, in order to examine the newly discovered glaciated mass. But I have already explained, that both the time at my disposal and the extent of my equipment did not admit of detailed investigations of this character; moreover it is, I am convinced, a good maxim that the broad features of a new region ought first to be explored and mapped before any attempt is made to deal with it in detail. Besides, this last is much easier of accomplishment, once the general geographical features of the region are understood, and especially does one then know *in what way* one ought to be equipped for making a prolonged stay in such a region as, for instance, the environs of the glaciated mass I am speaking of.

But let me proceed further with the jottings of my journal, and gather together the materials from which to draw our final conclusions.

August 7th. Our route now ran towards the west; on the left we had the principal stream of the latitudinal valley and on the right the range we had last crossed over, its lower slopes, on which we were travelling, being flat, mostly sterile, and slightly sprinkled with gravel. In our advance we forded some rather shallow watercourses, of which five, containing brooks, were not small. The flat gravelly scree does not go down to the principal stream in one unbroken sweep, but terminates at a good distance from it in a kind of terrace or escarpment, below which the surface is almost perfectly horizontal, and it is horizontal too on the opposite side of the stream. This escarpment marks the side of a former eroded channel, dating from the time when the river-bed was higher, and its volume greater, when also the glaciers in the vicinity covered a wider area and yielded up larger volumes of water.

The latitudinal valley extends towards the S. 83° W., widening as it proceeds, though at the point where we then were it was not broad. Its fall is towards the