

extraordinarily marshy and boggy, and it was only by exercising the utmost caution that we succeeded in getting the caravan along. As it was very unlikely that the camels would be able to travel in the yet higher regions which we were now about to ascend to, I sent a section of the caravan round by the north of the mountain T'. The river seemed to derive the greater part of its water from the snowy peaks indicated by U' and V'.

The first string of soft hills that we came to had a chain of pools running along each side of it, while on the south was a brook that became contributory to the river. The country was now very open towards the south-west, right away to the bases of the dark foot-hills and offshoots that appeared to surround the great mountain-mass of T' on all sides. Westwards too the country appeared to be pretty flat; nevertheless as we advanced we slowly ascended, the ground being practically barren, with the exception of a sprinkling of moss. On the right we passed some hills and a couple of pools, in which the stream that I have just mentioned takes its origin. To the south-west the plain is bounded by hills, amongst which natural springs are numerous, each forming a small miniature basin, framed in emerald green grass, thick, but very short, and as soft underfoot as an Indian carpet. The only hard rock we met with was here at Camp. XLV (alt. 4,973 m.), namely a dark porphyry, which cropped out in a couple of knolls, exposed on the south. The disintegrated materials of this rock, which were scattered about the vicinity, were of a distinctly lighter colour. Fragments and débris of the usual red sandstone occurred here and there.

Almost all day there was a storm from the west, accompanied at times by blinding snow. In the afternoon the north-east wind alternated with the north-west wind. The night was perfectly still and bright, as indeed it usually is at that season of the year. All the next day the same persistent westerly wind prevailed that had been blowing with few and short interruptions since the 1st September. Indeed in this part of Tibet this would appear to be the most pronounced meteorological characteristic of the autumn and winter.

September 9th. From Camp. XLV we saw several mountain summits, by far the most prominent being T' to the S. 71° W.; in the S. 53° E. was a flat-topped mountain at a few kilometers' distance; in the south and south-south-west a couple of smaller snowy peaks; to the N. 59° W. the peak U'; and to the N. 32° W. the peak V'.

The surface rose towards the south-west, the direction in which we were travelling, and soon began to grow more undulating and even hilly. The hills are threaded by a multitude of small rivulets and torrents, which trickle down to a brook that flows north-west to join the river of Camp XLIV. The surface was everywhere wonderfully soft and boggy, a veritable marsh of red earth or clay and gravel, amongst which were a few patches of grass. After that we followed a more distinctly marked glen, until we reached the flat pass at its head, consisting of nothing but mire. This pass is situated in a secondary offshoot, on the south of which a brook flows to the east and probably joins the large river that empties itself into the salt lake. Southwards the country grows more and more broken, the crests rising higher than heretofore and the glens being more deeply trenched. For