

The prevailing rock is red sandstone. This just behind Camp XLV dipped 22° towards the S. 10° W. In the vicinity of the little pass there was a hard green rock, dipping 53° towards the S. 75° W., while south of the same pass was a similar, but somewhat darker, variety, dipping 24° towards the N. 30° E. This makes the slope which goes down to the valley on the south very steep, I mean the valley that runs east.

September 10th. The country around Camp XLVI (alt. 5,143 m.) was practically barren, except for some moss and the short Alpine grass that the wild yak loves; and accordingly wild yaks were very numerous in this region. During the summer they seem to prefer the loftiest mountain solitudes and keep by preference close to the regions of perpetual snow; but in winter they descend to relatively lower regions. We also saw kulans and orongo antelopes; but on the other hand no marmots, the ground being no doubt far too wet for them to make burrows in.

Due west we perceived a flat pass, from which descend two parallel valleys, with brooks, which unite immediately south of Camp XLVI and then enter the pool I have lately named; between them runs a chain of rather flat hills. We followed the left bank of the more northerly stream; it is intersected by several very shallow watercourses with boggy, miry bottoms. On the south of the southern glen is a dark mountain-range, forming a connecting link or bridge between T' and a great snowy mass situated a considerable distance to the south-south-east.

Higher up the surface grew flatter, but was nevertheless more difficult to march over. It consisted partly of fine material, red mire and clay, in which a pool of water oozed up and filled every footprint that our horses made; partly of sharp-edged gravel, scattered over the same miry ground; and partly of fragments of rock of all sizes up to 1 cub. foot, and even 1 cub.m., amongst which it was anything but easy to travel. The actual pass however, although it reaches the immense altitude of 5,426 m. (17,800 feet Eng.), and thus is one of the loftiest altitudes I ever reached in Tibet, is so flat that it was scarcely possible to determine the position of its culminating line. Then the great mountain-mass of T', at all events when seen from the top of the pass, appeared to consist of several peaks or dark, short craggy spurs. Their southern slopes were practically free from snow, there being only a couple of narrow strips high up under their culminating points; but the northern flanks were on the contrary covered with snow throughout. Between these black spurs descend two miniature glacier arms, but the actual ice itself was nowhere visible, owing to the covering of snow. From its lower margin trickled some small brooks. That which issues from the more western glacier arm runs westwards towards a fairly distinct glen, the bottom of which contained an abundance of gravel, though but little water. The pass and its environs, as also this western glen, were perfectly sterile. The valley gradually inclines towards the south-west and south-south-west. At Camp XLVII (alt. 5,263 m.) a few blades of grass made their appearance. Throughout the whole of this region the prevailing rocks are a very close-grained variety, which when struck with the hammer fractures in every direction, and a hard crystalline schist.

September 11th. As the valley ran too much to the south-west, and as the hills on its right side were low, we turned out of it and directed our march towards