

which stretches from east to west between two parallel mountain-ranges and is itself highest on the south, the sand-dunes — supposing indeed that there are such — tend to occur at the northern foot of the southern range, that is in the highest part of the said valley. We have already encountered the same thing, though on a much greater scale, in that part of the Desert of Gobi which stretches between the Kuruktagh and the Astin-tagh, where the belt of dunes extends along the northern foot of the last-named range, or more correctly speaking along the northern base of its foothills. And we have seen the same grouping repeated beside the Upper Kum-köl, the drift-sand there scrupulously avoiding the lowest part of the broad valley on the north. In the Desert of Gobi we found that the north-east and east-north-east winds have swept the sand together towards the foot of the southern mountain-range. Here in northern Tibet, where westerly winds prevail, it is more difficult to account for the grouping being the same. Possibly it is the north-east winds, or rather perhaps the north-west winds, which here drive the sand towards the south, for at the most all that the westerly winds can do is to move the dunes along the base of the southern mountain-range and parallel to it.

At Camp LXXVIII the right terraced bank rose 3 m. above the watercourse at the bottom, in which was a tiny rivulet covered with ice. From this spot Kisiltschap, our next day's goal, can be reached by a lower road, which runs westwards, having the foot of the mountains on the left and the belt of sand on the right, passes the spring of Kum-bulak, and so enters the glen of Kisiltschap. I heard the name of the glen in which we encamped pronounced in two different ways — Savughluk (from *savugh* = »earth-cave» or »grotto») and Soughluk (= »the cold region»). The rock at the entrance of the glen consisted of a pink coarse-grained granite, while pieces of fine-grained granite, of a light grey and dark grey colour, and up to 1 cub. foot in size, lay scattered outside the glen mouth, forming stripes pointing to the north-north-east. In the glen-mouth the altitude was 3,444 m., showing a very noticeable rise as compared with Temirlik.

November 12th. The glen led us practically due south, the windings being insignificant; the ascent, though not steep, was pretty uniform, and distinctly perceptible. The sand came to an end all at once just above the camp, for the lower slopes are there protected by massive buttresses of the mountain. In two or three places the dunes reach all the way down to the edge of the watercourse, and even in part rested upon the ice, a proof that a fresh sand-slide had taken place during the last westerly gales, since the ice formed. From this we may also infer, that the brook acts as an impediment to prevent the dunes from rising above a certain maximal altitude; for the increase which takes place during the winter, and of which the slight advance of the base of the dunes out upon the ice is the expression, is neutralised in the following spring and summer, when the flood that rushes down the brook sweeps the sand out to the lowlands, and the dunes are again diminished in height.

Just above the point where the sand comes to an end, the glen of Savughluk contracts to a veritable gorge, its stream having cut its way down through the perpendicular granite cliffs, while the breadth is often not more than a couple of meters, indeed sometimes only one meter. Here the path makes a slight detour, climbing up over a rounded col on the left-hand side of the glen, with steep acclivities