

northern acclivity ascends fairly regularly, but the southern is steep and, like the similar declivity of the Korumluk-davan, choked with stones and detritus. This pass has the reputation of being difficult and awkward, and is used only by hunters. Its absolute altitude amounts to 4412 m. The temperature of the air was -7.4 at 1 p. m., with a faint easterly breeze, and the sky was clouded to the extent of nine-tenths. There was said to be another pass less than half a day's journey farther east, namely the one that I saw to the south-west from the top of the Ara-tagh, though I did not cross by it.

A little way below the pass the descending transverse glen contracts to a deep-cut gorge between naked walls of rock; but below that it widens out again, and in the district where Camp No. 4 was pitched, 12 km. south-south-west below the pass, it is broad and open. Here the altitude was 4137 m.

On 29th October they travelled 16 km. to the south-west to Camp No. 5, which they formed 200 m. from the shore of the Upper Kum-köl, at the north-east corner of the lake, which the natives call Köl-baschi, or the Beginning of the Lake. The glen in which Camp No. 4 was situated opens out into the basin of the Kum-köl just below that camp, and its eroded watercourse became lost in the detritus and coarse sand of the talus, on which there was a sprinkling of japkak scrub. The name of this district, between the outlet of the glen and the north-east corner of the lake, is said to be Kala-otak, which agrees with Carey and Dalgleish's map: they call their camp, just east of the lake, Kalla-ottlak. I am unable to say which of these two forms is the more correct: Kalla-ottlak means the Grazing-place of the Cows, and Kala-otak, the Resting-place of the Cows or the Place where the Cows Rest. By »cows» are of course meant the cows of the wild-yak, which are perhaps wont to wean their calves in districts where there is better grazing. On the map of the Russian General Staff the Kum-köl-darja is incorrectly called Kalla-utagh; this seems to suggest that the form Kala-otak is the alone correct one.

With the view of obtaining a trustworthy check upon the Cossacks' map I instructed them to visit my Camp XVI of 27—29th July. With that object in view they were to ride round the east end of the lake till they came to the old camp, before proceeding along the north shore of the lake on their way back again. This should have brought them over the brook that is formed by the marsh, the springs, and the springfed pools of Bulak-baschi and enters the lake at its eastern end; but they found it absolutely impossible to ford the brook. The water was indeed shallow and clear, but the bed was so soft that the first horse that attempted to cross the stream was instantly swallowed up in the ooze, so that nothing but his head remained above it, and it was as much as they could do by uniting all their forces and using ropes to get him out again. Carey and Dalgleish were also forced to make a wide detour at this place in order to get past these marshy tracts, and even then they appear to have experienced considerable difficulty in fording the stream, for they encamped on both the east and the west side of the morass. In spite of the severe cold the brook was not frozen, even at its mouth; this must have been because of the constant high temperature of the spring-water.

From Camp No. 5 they were however able to see the site of our camp of 27—29th July: it lay to the S. 30° W., and the distance admitted of being calculated