

ing up the broad features of the system and its structure, though a great deal still remains to be done by way of detailed investigation.

From Camp CXVII the latitudinal valley has an extremely gentle slope towards the east-south-east, and its bottom contains but little gravel. The slopes on its right or southern side are scored by a great number of watercourses issuing out of the side-glens. Here too there are a couple of free-standing mountain-bosses. Just below them the main watercourse clings closely to the foot of the southern range, its spurs and buttresses plunging steeply down into its bed. Here we turned up out of the bottom of the watercourse and travelled along its left hand terrace, which is divided into three step-like divisions, the lowest of which is the most pronounced, often indeed quite vertical, and 4 meters in height, while the two upper steps are much less abrupt. From the top of the highest terraced step we commanded a view of the entire basin of Särtäng. In the east the icy expanse of the Bulungir-nor shone out clear and distinct; it appeared to be rather a small lake. The principal river of the basin, which originates in the perpetual snows of the Ritter Mountains, runs towards the west-north-west, and apparently, judging by the numerous serpentine strips of ice, is divided into several arms, all embosomed in yellow kamisch-fields of stupendous extent. The thick clouds of dust which hung in front of the distant mountains in the east suggested, that between their foot and the kamisch steppe there stretches a region of sandy desert or saj, the loose matter of which is lifted by the wind. We were just able to make out, faintly though still distinctly, the glaciers and snowfields on the Ritter Mountains.

Meanwhile we were marching obliquely away from the great eroded watercourse, the bottom of which becomes lower down filled with gravel; it then runs due east-south-east across hard saj, which has a very gentle, very uniform slope in the same direction, without any perceptible undulations, though it is furrowed at intervals by successive parallel eroded watercourses. The vegetation consisted of a thin sprinkling of teresken and other steppe scrub. At first the saj is rather gravelly, but the gravel is soon succeeded by coarse sand and earth. The Mongol track still continued to be distinct, though it did not appear to have been used for a long time past. Here again there were one or two cairns of stones, built however on the level ground. We were also marching away from the range on the right; at the same time it grew steadily lower, though forming a chain of bare denticulated, pointed crags. On the whole it appeared to curve like a bow, turning its concave side towards the basin of Särtäng. At intervals strips of snow gleamed out on its slopes; but on the inclined saj across which we were marching the snow had entirely disappeared. We were also travelling away from the main range of Anambar-ula; in other words the latitudinal valley opens out with a very wide throat towards the lowlands. The last peak of the main range that was visible, namely Y_1 is considerably lower than those we have already noticed and its snowfields of less extent. At the same time the slope of the saj grew flatter and flatter, and was dotted all over with brown scrub, which came to an end at a pretty sharp boundary-line; on the other side of it there does not exist a single plant of any description. The saj is hard and perfectly barren, and in it disappear all the small dry torrents that we had hitherto seen; from which circumstance it is to be inferred