

ula, and is never observed on the southern side, nor yet in Särtäng. Indeed in this last region the spring and summer are said to be windier than the winter; but the Föhn of the northern versant never blows except in winter, at any rate it is much feebler in spring, and does not blow at all in summer. It is clearly because of its local and strictly circumscribed range that the Mongol nomads prefer to pitch their tents some distance below the foot of the mountains, even though there be no water, and in that case the flocks have to be driven every day up to the springs at the end of some glen or other. The fact is that this violent Föhn wind is not observed at some distance from the foot of the mountains. And next day, no sooner did we cross over a low threshold just to the west of the end of the glen, than we no longer felt even the slightest breeze. This wind gave me the impression that it pours down the glen in exactly the same way as water flows down a river-bed.

On 17th January the sky was clear, though the air was full of tiny ice-needles, which glittered in the sun. The snow was 5 cm. thick. The view to the north still continued to be obscured. Our Mongol guides declared, that all the watercourses which we crossed over unite lower down to form one larger bed, which runs westwards, and this is indeed on the face of it very probable, for everywhere the ground slopes away towards the Lop depression. And far away to the north I fancied I could detect where that larger watercourse was situated, although at that season water never gets down so far, as well as a mountain-chain beyond it still farther to the north.

During the day the country became even more difficult than it was the day before in consequence of the still more numerous ravines and watercourses, all of which we had to cross transversely. Every other minute, sometimes indeed oftener, we crossed over these hindrances, while at wider intervals came the large drainage-channels, which issue from the bigger glens, and attain down where we were depths of as much as 30 m. It is a striking circumstance that the northern face of the Anambaruin-ula should be as it were honeycombed with thousands upon thousands of eroded rain-channels and glens, while the gravelly scree on the south side is so level and so easy, and its watercourses both few and extremely shallow. Something must however be set down to the fact, that on the south we kept at a greater distance from the base of the mountains, whereas here on the north we were marching quite close to them. Had we kept a farther distance out from the mountain-foot, the watercourses would naturally have been less accentuated, less deeply excavated, as we did indeed find to be the case with the river of Anambaruin-gol, which disappeared in the ground at no great distance from the mountains. At all events there is in this respect a great and real difference between the southern and the northern slopes. On the former there does not exist a single brook which for energetic modelling can be compared with those on the north, and the explanation is to be found simply and solely in the excentric structure of the range. The culminating crest is thrust a long way over to the south; the southern face is incomparably shorter than the northern; and the great bulk of the mountains, in consequence of the difference in the absolute altitude of the adjacent lowlands, comes to lie north of the main crest and of the pass. Consequently incomparably the greater part of the precipitation which is arrested by this range falls on the north side of