the water-divide, that is the culminating crest, whereas it is only a very inconsiderable portion which descends upon the southern flanks of the range. The result is what might naturally be expected: the gravelly scree on the northern side is deeply and abundantly eroded, whereas the erosive energy to which the southern versant is exposed is too feeble to leave any especially noticeable traces.

Our route, which cut all the northern watercourses and glens transversely, makes both horizontally and vertically a denticulated line, for on the tops of the intervening swellings and ridges it curves outwards towards the north, whereas in the bottoms of the watercourses between them it curves in the opposite direction, that is towards the south, the object being of course to preserve as far as possible the same horizontal level.

Precisely the same character and relief are exhibited by the country at the northern foot of the western Kwen-lun, especially in Kirk-saj or the Forty Gullies, which I visited in 1896 between Kapa and Sourghak, and have described in *Petermanns Mitteilungen*, Ergänzhft 131. There, just as here, that part of the northern versant which lies immediately at the foot of the mountains consists of soft earthy slopes, alternating with torrents cut through the gravel-and-shingle detritus and with a relative abundance of grass, which is visited by Taghliks, just as the grass is here on the northern face of Anambaruin-ula by the Mongols. I assumed that all the deep trenches which we were crossing at the cost of so much time would lower down become shallower and shallower, and I therefore asked my guides, whether we should not find it easier travelling if we kept farther out from the foot of the mountains; but they declared that we could not do so. The trenches do indeed grow shallower lower down towards the lowlands, and gradually converge and unite, but the watercourses thus formed are inclosed between deep vertical scarped terraces, and what is worse they traverse a perfectly barren region, where there is no water to be obtained anywhere. Thus the higher route that we were following was the only available one. Exactly corresponding circumstances are met with again in the country of Kirk-saj, where to the north of the grazing-grounds there extends a belt of barren desert, desert that is in so far as it is not fertilised by the streams that issue out of the larger glens, e. g. the Bostan-toghrak, Tolan-chodscha, Möldscha, and Kara-muran. As I have already said, the transverse glen of Scho-ovo-tu was the largest of those that we had hitherto crossed over. This may only apparently be the case, for if names are anything to go by, the Davato (or Davoto) ought to be bigger than the Scho-ovo-tu. Possibly the latter expands higher up and becomes a far greater glen than what its lower extremity would lead one to expect.

All day we still had the Anambaruin-ula on our left hand, but the range no longer imparted the same impression of majesty that it had done previously, the reason being that we were much too close in to its foot, so that the loftiest reaches were screened by the elevations down at the base. The ground was everywhere covered with snow. It consisted throughout of gravel-and-shingle, gravel, sand, earth, with occasional blocks of stone, but nowhere of hard rock. The hills and spurs which jut out from the mountains actually consist of soft materials, derived from greenstone and crystalline schists.

Leaving the ruined temple, we travelled a short distance down by the right bank of the Davato, and then crossing over it, passed a small range of hills running