

schists dipping 76° towards the N. 20° W. Here the altitude was 3629 m. above sea-level.

May 27th. A great number of spring-fed rivulets converge from every direction, and especially from the great snow-clad mountain-ranges on the south, into the open plain of Unkurluk, which slopes towards the north-west. Thus the region around Unkurluk forms a trough-shaped gathering-basin, capable of holding vast quantities of water when it rains in the summer. The usual route to Kar-jaghdi proceeds due south from Unkurluk, crossing over three passes. This we passed, as I have said, on the left hand, and travelling towards the south-west crossed over both the eroded watercourses of Unkurluk. These unite somewhat farther down; the one on the left contained a little water from the melting of the snow of the day before. A tiny side-glen led us up to the first pass, situated in the spur which separates Unkurluk from the glen of Kisil-partscha or Partschalik, lying to the west of it. The spur in question consists of soft grass-grown hills, and is so low, that the pass is only 45 m. higher than the plain of Unkurluk. It is however safe to say that lower down it grows bigger, seeing that it effectually prevents the two glens from uniting; for the Kisil-partscha, which also slopes towards the north-west, debouches directly into the Tscharklik-su. The main glen of Kisil-partscha is, like that of Unkurluk, broad, and possesses a wide source-region, which is none the less smaller than that of its neighbour. On the south it is backed by the same snow-clad main range. If one may judge from the marks of erosion, this glen too would appear to be traversed by pretty considerable bodies of water.

The track, still maintaining a south-west direction, ascends a side-glen and so reaches another pass in soft ground, being barely 20 m. higher than the former pass, and situated in a chain of heights that separate Kisil-partscha from the next glen on the west. The latter is however relatively insignificant, and is embraced amongst soft hills, besides which it soon runs into the Kisil-partscha. After following it for a space towards the north-west, we left it on our right, and turned south-west up a couple of similar glens. Of these the larger one, on the west, is called Jaka-saj, a name said to have been conferred upon it because it is situated »by the side of» the larger Kisil-partscha. The Jaka-saj brought us up to the third pass of that day, and the highest, namely 3797 m. On the other side of this pass even the level spaces were covered with snow, and consequently slippery and insecure under foot, the surface consisting entirely of earth and clay. Here and there we saw tiny rivulets in the bottoms of the watercourses; but they were too feeble to gather into brooks. We were now separated from the fourth secondary pass by a fresh gathering-basin belonging to a side-glen of the Ghulmet-saj; this pass lies a dozen meters lower than the last. On its southern side we travelled by gently rising, broken ground, that drains into the rather great and broad Ghulmet-saj, crossing on the way over a host of spring-fed rivulets, some of which contained a little water. This region is separated from another gathering-basin on the south by a low saddle. The glens and watercourses of this second gathering-basin converge upon an independent main glen, which instead of uniting with any of those that I have just mentioned, cuts its way through the Astin-tagh independently, and thus forms a separate transverse glen, which is said to debouch upon the lowlands at Tatlik-bulak, so that it terminates a day's journey south-west of the outlet of the Tscharklik-su. There exists no direct