

parts the lake from a large fresh-water pool to the south of it. It was here we encamped. This isthmus was even less than 6 m. above the level of the lake. The reason that the pool, although so close to the lake, possessed fresh water, was that it no doubt communicates with it by an underground effluent. Had we had time to follow the outline of the shore, we should doubtless have found that it sweeps round to the south in the way it does in order to avoid the flat tract which exists there and its then disconnected pools. At all events the strand-ramparts prove that the lake was formerly far bigger than it is now, and that it is consequently undergoing a process of desiccation.

Camp XLVI was situated at an altitude of 4972 m., one or two meters higher than the lake. The grazing here was poor. On the shore we came across an old encampment. But an even still clearer proof that Tibetans do occasionally visit that region was afforded by an attack made upon us the next night by horse-thieves, who retired towards the south or south-west.

On the 29th July we travelled almost all day towards the S.  $70^{\circ}$  E., the ground being exceptionally favourable owing to the wonderfully slight differences of elevation. At first our route ran between the fresh-water pool on our left and some shallow salt-water pools on our right. We now came upon sheep-droppings in extraordinary quantity in one or two places. From this I was at first led to think that the nomads must extend their wanderings thus far north. But later on I learned that the people use caravans of sheep for the purpose of fetching salt from salt-pans that lie to the north of the inhabited regions, and the indications we found were no doubt left by some such caravan. After that we ascended a broad valley, the water-course in which was moist and contained a couple of pools; this water would eventually make its way down to the salt pools which I have mentioned. Here the grazing was excellent, and there were hosts of wild animals — kulans and antelopes, while on the slope of the relatively low hills to the south was an immense herd of wild yaks, with a great many calves. Farther on partridges abounded.

The pass up to which the glen leads has an altitude of 5003 m. From its summit we saw a great, broad, open latitudinal valley stretching from east-north-east to west-south-west. All the watercourses and glens of the region converge upon a depression lying to the south-west; probably there is a salt lake there. Having crossed over this glen towards the east-south-east, we directed our march towards the lowest notch that we could see in the range to the south, which however was not very high, the surface rising slowly as we advanced. We crossed over a number of eroded watercourses and occasionally a pool. The grazing was excellent, and in places there was dry scrub. We pitched our tent (Camp XLVII) beside a little brook at an altitude of 5117 m. There was here any amount of wild-yak droppings. We saw in the far distance three mounted Tibetans, who however disappeared towards the north-west.

During the last few days the precipitation had been quite insignificant. This day the weather continued brilliant until the afternoon, in fact it was sometimes uncomfortably warm; but during the latter half of the day's march we were inconvenienced by heavy rain, with a strong gale of wind from the south-east. When darkness fell, the sky was everywhere hidden behind louring clouds, while the light-