

IV. C A M P K H U J I R T U = G O L

On May 27th we camped near the stream Khujirtu-gol,¹ moving our tents and baggage the following day only an hour's journey to the east along the same watercourse. This camping-place bore the number VIII and was chosen as our headquarters during the time necessary for LARSON'S purchase of camels. The two hundred and thirty-two hired camels and their pullers had now completed their service and were allowed to turn back. The tents were put up in a long, straight line. LARSON insisted that we should follow the Mongol custom of always having the tent-flaps open to the south. He declared that we should be laughed at if we had the tent-openings in any other direction. But when we set up camp here such a hard south wind was blowing that he was the only one who persisted in having his tent open to the south. Apart from the wind, moreover, we were on the south bank of the Khujirtu-gol, and wanted an unobstructed view over the stream, though it was only a few meters wide. The water was clear and fresh, and full of small fish, frogs and algae. The banks were overgrown with grass.

On this camping-site we found ourselves in a flat valley, surrounded on all sides with round hills, to the south quite close. The valley opened to the north, widening to the great plains. A little hill on the yonder side of the stream was crowned by a black obo or votive cairn.

The caravan-route we were to follow to the west wound over the plains at a distance of a few kilometers to the north of the camp.

ARRIVAL OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION

On the afternoon of the same day that we arrived at the Khujirtu-gol LIEBERENZ and HASLUND also turned up. They had left the railway in Kalgan, thence travelling up through the border mountains of Mongolia to Khalun-usu to fetch ANDREWS'S sixty-five camels. After that they had paid a visit to the ruler of Barun

¹ In earlier descriptions this name has been written Hudjertu-gol, approximately corresponding to the Swedish pronunciation. HASLUND uses the form Hodjertai-gol in his book »Zajagan», Engl. ed. »Tents in Mongolia.» F. B.