

CHAPTER XLVIII.

THE HIMALAYAN WATER-PARTING OF KORE-LA BETWEEN THE TSANGPO AND THE GANGES.

At the S.E. side of the little ridge at the foot of which the Tsangpo flows, is situated the small monastery Likkse-gompa with the plain of Yaken in front of it. From here our road goes S.W. over a little threshold Tsasa-la; several small tributaries enter from the south, Pina-ongma, Pina-parva and Pina-tangbo; the rock is sandstone. The next threshold is Dorap-la at the western foot of which the brook from Kore-la, Chokar-shung makes a sharp bend and falls into the Tsangpo; it carries very little water. The road is much worn and there must be a considerable traffic going on; it consists of some 20 parallel paths, representing the high road to Nepal, and even now several salt caravans were passing. A promontory Ngurkung is of sandstone, two or three isolated rocks near it are called Ngurkung-chang; the valley of Ngurkung-changma leads to the next pass; before reaching it one crosses a right tributary, Ngurkung-shar; a widening of the valley is called Amse.

Ngurkung-la is an insignificant threshold, from the crest of which some of the Lunpo-gangri peaks are seen to the N.54°E.; at its west side the living rock is schist and sandstone. There the hills come to an end in this direction, and the road turns S.S.W. over level ground; to the right or west extends the broad open valley or plain which stretches north from the Kore-la to the Tsangpo, and the ground of which is very spongy; it is called Nachalak, and many tents and flocks were seen amongst its good grass.

Sara is the name of a tributary valley from the east, and Sara-hla two stone cairns with flags. The next valleys from the east are Lepge-kanchu, Chalung, Shalung, and Nang-tsang, the latter with marked terraces and a brook in three branches. Camp 181 was at a height of 4,595m. (15,072 feet), only 30m. above the Tsangpo at Likkse-gompa. About 20 tents were pitched here.

A very hard S.S.W. wind was blowing the whole day, and increased as we proceeded south. Over the snowy mountains east and west belonging to the northernmost range of the Himalaya dark clouds concealed the summits.

Following as before the eastern side of the valley we continue south to the Kore-la, an extraordinary pass, as it is hardly noticeable to the naked eye; only appro-