

CHAPTER XXX.

THE SECOND CROSSING.

The direction of the second line across the system is very much like the first one, forming an angle towards the east. The starting point is situated a little above the village of Chaga, where the Dok-chu joins the Tsangpo, at a height of 4 013 m. The end point is Camp 150 on the bank of the Targo-tsangpo, and about two days' journey south of Dangra-yum-tso, where the height is 4 708 m. Here, therefore, we find some 700 m as the elevation of the plateau-land above the valley of the Tsangpo. Camp 150 cannot be many metres above the surface of the Dangra-yum-tso.

The highest point of this line of crossing is the pass Chang-la-Pod-la with 5 573 m. The distance from the starting point to this pass is, in a straight line, 106,7 km, and on my route 145 km, and the rise is 1 560 m. From the pass to the end point the distance is 72,4 km, as the crow flies, and 78,7 km on my route, and the difference in height amounts to 865 m. The highest point is also situated on the continental water-parting.

The road from Chaga crosses a little secondary pass, Tsikchung-chang before it reaches the junction of the two rivers. The river Dok-chu is formed by the junction of the Raga-tsangpo with the Mü-chu-tsangpo. Its valley is well defined between mountains of moderate size and it keeps chiefly to the right or southern side of the valley, although it sometimes goes over to the northern, or, sometimes, follows the middle of the valley. The road follows the foot of the mountains along the northern side on the top of or below a terrace of clay, sand and gravel often pierced by dry ravines. Quite rudimentary sand dunes are sometimes seen, those situated in the angle between the Tsangpo and the Dok-chu being bound by vegetation. Changra, Yangyang and Dsho are short northern valleys coming from the crest of a ramification, not from an independent range; therefore all the northern valleys are very short and insignificant, and at the beginning of April, mostly dry. From the south enter the valleys Uri, Tseva and Tsa, the two last-mentioned with a common, broad mouth.

At a place called Chak-kera there is a path some 10 or 15 m above the river, on the slope, and used at high-water. The rock consists of grey granite.