

The country is hopelessly desolate. There is absolutely no kind of vegetation and no sign of life of any kind, not even dung of the wild yak. Skulls of yak and horses were, however, to be seen at some places. They may have belonged to animals in the service of the Forsyth Mission or surveyors of the Survey of India. The valley becomes broader and opens up. Its floor is more comfortable than hitherto, as it is covered with fine, dry gravel. The distance between the mountain ridges at both sides becomes greater. At intervals the brook is crossed. The water flows extremely slowly, sometimes it seems to be nearly immovable, and in side branches which have been cut off, it is quite still. Finally the valley goes out into a plain with perfectly dry ground, so dry even that dust clouds are whirled up by the caravan in spite of the hail showers which often beat the ground. At some hard places sufficiently elevated to be out of reach of running water, there were traces of an old track, though it was impossible to tell whether it was made by caravans or wild animals. It seemed to be old and had disappeared for long distances.

Again the brook is crossed and left to the left of our route where it flows along the base of reddish hills of soft material. Having crossed the alluvial plain, as barren as the rest of the country, we pitched *Camp III* on the left erosion terrace of the brook, at the foot of low hills. From this point a Panorama (14, Tab. 3) was taken of the surrounding region except from N. N. W. to S. E., where the hills quite close to the camp, hindered the view. To the N. W. the red hills are seen, at the base of which the brook is streaming, here divided into several branches. From N. 75° W. to S. 89° W., through an interruption in the near hills, a series of gigantic snow-covered peaks are seen, obviously a part of the S. E. continuation of the high *Kara-korum* Range, viz. the part of it that is situated to the west of the upper *Shayok* River. The rest of the range, to the N. W., is hidden by the above-mentioned red hills. To the W. S. W. the opening of the valley, by which we have come, is visible. To the S. W., south, and S. E. there is a series of more irregular, rounded hills, which constitute the last ramifications and foot hills in the direction of the water-parting *Kara-korum* which we had just crossed in the *Chang-lung-yogma*. Behind these hills, and hidden by them, the crest of the upheaval of that range is situated. Now one had indeed the impression of camping on the high Tibetan plateau-land, and of being surrounded only by relatively low mountain ridges, isolated, interrupted and irregular. Only to the W. N. W. and west the view reached some 120 or 130 km. away.

The living rock cropping out at *Camp III* was greyish brown limestone.

The march to *Camp IV*, *September 3rd.*, took us E. S. E. and east for 17.7 km. The height at *Camp IV* being 5,284 m., this means a fall of only 98 m. or a rate of 1:181. To the naked eye the ground, therefore, is practically level.