

CHAPTER V.

IN THE LATITUDINAL VALLEY SOUTH OF THE KWEN-LUN.

On *October 2nd* the march continues in a straight line E. N. E. for 16.7 km. The ground rises imperceptibly or only 56 m., as *Camp XXVIII* is at a height of 5,137 m.; the rate is, therefore, as 1:298 or perfectly level to the eye. It is, therefore, difficult to tell in which direction the several extremely shallow waterless erosion furrows are directed which are crossed by the route. Sometimes one got the impression that they went diagonally across the plain to the N. W., but that is uncertain. Everywhere there is grass and yapkak, a real highland steppe. The landscape is extremely monotonous as is usually the case in latitudinal valleys. The single points of interest are the snow-groups to the north and south, though they had been in sight for several days, the *Deasy Group* all the way since the threshold west of *Yeshil-köl*. Near *Camp XXVIII* there were two fresh-water pools. In such regions as these, hard rock is, of course, not within reach. From *Camp XXVIII* a complete panorama, 44^A and 44^B, Tab. 8, was made all around the horizon. To the S. 20° E. and S. 3° W. the culminating peaks of the *Deasy Group* are seen. To the S. W. and W. S. W. from where we come, no mountains are visible chiefly due to the unevenness of the ground. To the S. 82° W., west, N. 81° W. and N. 70° W. only the highest summits of different mountains are visible. Then follows a gap to the N. W., and to the N. N. W. is the northern snow-covered group. To the N. E. is a protuberance of the soil hiding the mountains behind. To the E. S. E. and S. E. are moderate hills bounding the latitudinal valley to the south.

On *October 3rd* the route is towards the N. E. and N. N. E. for 15.8 km. *Camp XXIX* has a height of 5,091 m., so the ground sinks 46 m. or as 1:343. In comparison with *Camps XXVII* and *XXIX*, *Camp XXVIII* was, therefore, highest being situated at the base of the cupola-shaped but flat protuberance in the middle of the latitudinal valley. The wind was again from the west and the minimum temperature for the night was —22.0°, which may be regarded as sharp for the season.¹

¹ All the temperatures and other meteorological observations are to be found in Volume VI, corrected and controlled by Prof. Nils Ekholm.