

and blocks that had given way and fallen down, quite filling up the narrow space. Here we could have forced our way. But a short distance farther on, a similar fall of rocks had taken place which could not be traversed without straining the forces of our animals too hard. And still higher up, my scouts reported the valley to be absolutely impracticable. This seems to be a characteristic feature of all the valleys which go from the northern *Kara-korum Range* to the S. W. and join the *Shayok*, and probably they become more and more difficult farther south. To them belongs the *Chang-chenmo* valley, though this is strong enough to break through the whole range. We had to return, and camped at a height of 4,995 m.

The next day we returned down the valley and camped at a place where some grass was found. *Camp CCLXXXV* had a height of 4,880 m. The minimum temperature had been  $-34.8^{\circ}$ . At this camp, we let the animals have one day's rest. The next night the sky was cloudy, and the minimum temperature only  $-17.2^{\circ}$ .

On *December 23rd*, we returned to *Burtse* and continued up the main valley to *Kisil-unkur*, *Camp CCLXXXVI*, where the height is 5,128 m., or 320 m. above *Burtse*. The distance from the latter place is 14.4 km., and the rise, therefore, as 1:45. The day was cloudy and a strong wind was blowing, though it is difficult to tell from where in these narrow valleys.

Our direction is N. N. W. The valley is full of gravel and some snow; ice appears only higher up. The mountains at the sides are wild and rocky. A small glacier is seen at the right side of the valley; another had already been passed on the left side, south of *Burtse*. The talus of débris at both sides is steep. The valley makes a sharp bend to the east. Beyond it the wind grew to a storm and came from the south. The snow-patches in the valley are hidden and covered with fine red dust; only higher up the slopes, the snow is white and clear. Clouds of dust and dry snow are whirling up the valley. The country is absolutely barren, since *Camp CCLXXXV* we had seen no grass. Several side valleys open both from the left and right. Two of them are considerable. The main valley finally becomes as narrow as a gorge, between hills of loose material, and in the bed, there is ice. My Ladakis asserted that here somewhere was the place which is called *Daulet Bek-öldi* after a well-known historical event. The name of the place where we camped in this narrow valley was called *Kisil-unkur*.

On *December 24th*, our march continues N. E. for 15.4 km. From *Kisil-unkur* the direction is north and the distance to the *Dapsang Pass* of the northern *Kara-korum Range* is 4 km. The ascent on this stretch is from 5,128 m. to 5,428 m. or 300 m., being at a rate of 1:13.3. On the other, or *Chang-tang* side, we have 11 km. to *Camp CCLXXXVII*, where the height is 5,227 m. or a fall of 201 m., being a rate of 1:54.7. The slope up to the pass from the regions having an