

giving the rate of fall of 1:83, or more noticeable than hitherto. The minimum temperature was only -17.8° , and the temperature at 1 o'clock p. m. -14.4° . It is curious that the difference of the night-temperatures in a few days could be over 20° , and that the difference between day and night could be only 3.4° . But we were in a period in which the sky is hidden by impenetrable clouds, so much so that even the days were dark. Still, only seldom, a few snowflakes fell, not sufficient to make the ground white.

We cross the ice ribbon at the camp and return to the southern or right side of the valley, where at some places the screes have been cut off, and small patches of grass are seen. On the steep rocks at the left side, a herd of 22 *Ovis ammon* were seen; the first wild animals we had met for a long time. Dung of wild yak is now more common, proving that the animals visit these regions during the summer. *Pantholops* antelopes and kyangs also come to these high mountains, as could be seen from their dung.

The valley that has been narrow a while, again broadens out, and finally joins an extensive, nearly meridional, valley, formed, as it seems, by two valleys, the larger from S. S. W., the other being a right tributary from the S. E. The valley is filled with ice from one side to the other. At the left side, where running water was to be had, we pitched *Camp CCXCIII*. In the corner where both valleys meet, the living rock was dark grey quartzitic sandstone.

The valley coming from S. S. W. or from the north-eastern slopes of the *Karakorum Range*, and then continuing north, breaking through the mighty ranges of the *Kwen-lun*, is the *Kara-kash-daria*, belonging to the drainage area of the *Tarim* and *Lop-nor*. To give my scouts an opportunity to reconnoitre the way down the river and up through the S. E. valley, we passed a day at this camp, from which the small sketches, Pan. 375, 376 and 378, Tab. 66, are taken, giving aspects of the two above-mentioned valleys from the S. S. W. and S. E., and of the joint valley going north and N. N. E.

On *December 31st*, I sent reconnoitering parties up the valley from the S. E. and down the joint valley to the N. E. At their return, both reported that easy passages had been found eastwards. Therefore, on *January 1st*, 1908, we marched up in the south-eastern direction which was supposed to be the shortest way. The distance to *Camp CCXCIV* was 10 km. We followed the right side of the ice-sheet. At some places the hills and screes fall steeply down to the ice, and force us to march on the ice itself. After a few kilometers, there is an interval between the base of the screes and the edge of the ice and we enter upon more even ground in the mouth of the valley from the S. E. From the point where we leave the principal branch of the *Kara-kash* River, we see its valley continuing S. S. W. in the direction of the principal range of the northern *Karakorum*, from where the