

general tectonic and mountain-building laws, are much more pressed together than in the central and eastern parts of Tibet.

On *February 18th*, we took a new step in the prolongation of the great latitudinal valley to the E. S. E., marching 10.1 km. and descending 94 m., as *Camp CCCXXXIII* had an altitude of 5,181 m., the rate was 1:107, the same slow gradient as usual. The minimum temperature had been -20.8° . In the morning the wind came from S. E. but soon turned around to S. W. The soil of the valley remained the same as before; heaps of gravel, small blocks and snow. The greatest amount of snow was always found where the valley was at its narrowest. This snow is swept down to the lee side of the mountains to the S. W. A large part of the valley was as narrow as a gorge between mostly rounded hills of no great altitude. One has to march in the erosion bed itself, the course of which, in accordance with the valley, is rather winding. In the mouth of one of the small tributary valleys from the sides, there was a square of stones, inside of which a tent had been pitched. In the narrowest part of the valley, the living rock was dark grey and black quartz schist. In a tributary valley near *Camp CCCXXXIII*, the rock seemed to be red granite; the gravel in the bed of our valley was largely granite.

Finally the narrow valley again opens out, and we are able to leave the bed and to travel on the flat slopes of the mountains on the left. Here the grass was tolerably good, and all sorts of fuel to be found. As the slope was much exposed to wind and sunshine, it was nearly free from snow except at the lee sides of terraces. Three flocks of *Pantholops* antelopes and one kyang had been seen in the course of the day.

From this camp, Panorama 417, Tab. 75, was drawn, showing the black ridges with low pyramidal peaks and, here and there, strips of snow. An accompanying water colour panorama gives an idea of the landscape to the east and S. E. as it appeared from the interior of my tent at about 1 o'clock p. m. when one of the most violent storms I have ever witnessed, came sweeping with its full fury across the highlands of Tibet. It came, as always, from S. W. Thick clouds of dust and sand were driven north-eastwards and the farther mountains soon disappeared. The nearer hills, of which some had a singular red colour, could still be discerned, particularly their higher parts and crests, proving that most of the solid material was swept along the ground. The sky was clear and blue without even the smallest cloud. Even fine gravel was drumming against my tent, and the round balls of the kyangs' dung were flying uphill like paper. The temperature rose to -1.4° , which was the highest we had experienced since December 6th, in the *Shayok* Valley, or about two and a half months ago. In the evening twilight, the storm came to an end, and at dark only a dying breeze was felt.