

valley, interrupted by some fairly broad and flat tributary valleys opening to the great latitudinal valley. The landscape is typical, showing the result of the levelling action of a denudation that has been going on for long periods. Here, as in many other parts of interior Tibet, we have indeed a very good example of what Penck calls the »upper denudation limit» above which the destructive action does not allow any mountains to rise. The panorama also very clearly shows how the different ridges, for instance, those to the N. 47° E. and S. 66° E., are cropping out from the débris which form very flat conical screes sloping extremely slowly from the base of the mountains down to the midst of the plains or latitudinal valleys. The depressions and cavities between the mountains which have been filled up with enormous quantities of loose material, occupy a much greater area than those parts which, still, in the form of mountains, rise above the beds of deposits. Winds and weather, frost and sunshine, and the great amplitudes of temperature between day and night during the warmer months, and between winter and summer, and finally the action of rain and running water and melting snow, all these are factors co-operating towards the levelling of the country, the lowering of the mountains and the filling up of the depressions. The relative heights, therefore, in the course of time decrease. The procedure is irresistible and uninterrupted, though, of course, extremely slow. If one factor ceases to be active, as for instance the running water in the winter, another will begin with its work, as do the strong winds and storms in the cold season. The final result at which the destructive powers are aiming, is to bring the mountains and the valley plains at one and the same level. This would be the ideal plateau-land, a status which, however, never will be reached, for the peripheric erosion is with the same energy working its way towards the heart of the still self-contained plateau-land without outlet to the ocean.

At the place where we had seen one tent, 2 or 3 km. W. N. W. of the camp, there proved to be two, inhabited by 2 men, 2 women and 2 children. They had arrived from *Gertse* two months ago and would remain one month more. They reckoned 6 days to *Gertse*, where the *Gertse Pun* or chief of the district is living in a stone house, not in a tent, at least during the winter. Their dwelling place near *Camp CCCXLI*, they called *Senes-yung-rigmo*, and the region of *Camp CCCXL*, *Takmar*. These nomads were very poor. They asserted that they only possessed 70 sheep and goats, 6 yaks and one dog. They were not hunters. If we continued S. 48° E., where the country, as seen on Pan. 424C, Tab. 77, was open, we would in two days reach a fresh-water lake where nomads were dwelling. Continuing farther in the same direction, we would probably come across nomads at several other places, all of them from *Gertse* and *Senkor*. But if we continued eastwards, we would not meet anybody for some ten days, nor find any springs or snow.