

CHAPTER XX.

TO NAGRONG.

On *February 28th*, we marched 17.7 km. S. E., rising 90 m. or to 4,759 m., being at a rate of 1:197. During this day's march, we finally abandoned the great latitudinal valley which we had followed for so long a time. It continued to the E. S. E., as is shown on Pan. 424B, Tab. 77, perhaps for a very long distance. Now we turned S. E. up through the very broad and open valley which also is to be seen on the same panorama, and which may be regarded as a branch of the one we hitherto had followed. To begin with, the ground seems to be absolutely horizontal, consisting of yellowish grey clay washed down from the southern mountains, and at some places occasionally forming extremely shallow pools, in which the fine clay is deposited. Such pools, no doubt, disappear in two or three days. Here and there a thin layer of sand lies on the clay. Grass is common, and kyangs are numerous. The ground slowly begins to rise not far from a place where a well had been dug. We approach the southern mountains, which, as usually in this region, are red. From them some shallow watercourses come down and are crossed by our route.

Extremely slowly we are approaching a threshold which, in this direction, is the water-parting of the basin of *Senes-yung-rigmo*. At a greater distance N. E. of our route, is the mountain group or ramification, which also bounds the threshold to the N. E., and belongs to the ridge which separates our new valley from the one we saw stretching eastwards. The country is extremely flat and the rise of the ground is imperceptible. In two of the northgoing furrows, there was some snow, the rest of the ground being quite bare. To the right of our route, two tents were pitched, and farther on, a third. Fifteen yaks were grazing in their vicinity. It would be quite impossible to tell whether we crossed a threshold and where it was situated. Where the country to the S. E. began to open at a greater distance, we probably were at our highest point, though the ground itself looked perfectly even. We camped at the lee side of a little detached hill where we found just as much snow as was sufficient for our water supply. Here, nomads had been camping. The living rock was the same limestone as before. The S. W. wind was blowing the whole