

south, to S. 77° W. Then follows the profile of the latitudinal valley like a straight line to N. 77° W., and the rest of the panorama past north to N. 85° E., *Kung-tsakma*, represents the northern range. Between N. 85° E. and S. 63° E. is again a straight line indicating the open perspective of the latitudinal valley.

On *March 15th*, we made 16.3 km. E. S. E. The ground falls in the same direction, though only 23 m. or to 4,511 m., which is the height of *Camp CCCLIV*. The rate is, therefore, extremely slow or as 1:709. The minimum temperature was -19.9°. In the morning a light breeze came from the east but turned around to S. W., though not hard. The sky was overclouded from noon.

As usual in a latitudinal valley, the march was extremely monotonous. The northern and southern mountains had the same features as the day before, and seemed to continue very far to the east. As my intention was to cut the *Transhimalaya* System in its most unknown portion between my routes of the previous year, we had to cross, as soon as possible, the southern mountains of the latitudinal valley. Therefore, we marched at no great distance from their base, crossing a large number of small transverse erosion beds, nearly always containing some snow. The rest of the ground was bare. Only in a larger bed, Tibetans had camped. The ground was hard and comfortable, consisting of fine gravel; the grass became more and more scanty to the east.

At 2 or 3 km. north of our course, the floor of the valley seemed to be perfectly level and consisting of red clay with some white patches of salt crystallizations, indicating a greater extension of the lake at an earlier period. The clay bed continues to the very shore of the lake. In the latter part of the day's march, we crossed a very flat protuberance, being the slope of the scree at the base of the southern mountains we had near our right. This slope was cut through by innumerable erosion furrows about 2 m. broad and 1.5 or 2 m. deep, and often with overhanging terraces. They formed real nets of branches, joining and going down to the red clay surface. Reaching the culmination point of this protuberance, we became aware of the lake, *Tongka-tso*, a white surface, whether ice or snow, could not be made out. In the middle there seemed, however, to be open water. Far to the east, the bordering mountains of the latitudinal valley seemed to join like a *cul de sac* which must have been an optical illusion as, according to Nain Sing in 1874, the lake *Tashi-bup-tso* is situated in this latitudinal valley and east of *Tongka-tso* with which it probably is in communication. The illusion is obviously caused by the fact that the valley from *Tongka-tso* and eastwards assumes a more easterly direction in accordance with the general orographical rule of the Tibetan highland. Kyangs and antelopes were grazing in the valley. *Camp CCCLIV* was pitched in a shallow bed containing some snow and with scanty grass in the surroundings. The dung of kyangs was the only fuel to be had.