

side of the *Kailas*. At 2 km. from *Camp CCCCLVI*, our road crossed a rather insignificant depression with swampy ground which farther S. E., contained some pools of stagnant water. This was the old bed of the *Satlej*. Then it was left out of sight until *Camp CCCCLVI, Serlep-yung*, which was pitched at the left side of the *Satlej* bed. Here it contained both pools and springs, though the water was not good. According to my instruments, the absolute altitude of the place was 4,585 m. This would be 4 m. below the surface of *Rakas-tal*, and we would have passed the little threshold, from which the *Satlej* bed begins to fall N. W.

As the hypsometrical relations along the valley of the *Satlej* are of great interest, and give a very clear conception of the accentuated relief, I am going to give the distances and absolute altitudes of the following stages. We have just left the *Manasarovar* with 4,602 m. and *Rakas-tal* with 4,589 m., and our journey from *Tokchen* to *Serlep-yung* has been accomplished at approximately the same altitude, or on the platform of a high plateau-land surrounded by gigantic mountains. We have found that the plateau-land of *Manasarovar* was somewhat higher than certain parts of the *Chang-tang* plateau, for instance, between *Camps CCCLXVII* and *CCCLXVIII*. From the mountains surrounding the Sacred Lake, the *Brahmaputra*, the *Indus* and the *Satlej* take their rise, their upper courses and their upper tributaries belonging to what v. Richthofen calls the peripheric region, inside of which is the great self-contained area of Central Asia. The greater part of my journey falls within the boundaries of the latter area. My journey along the *Satlej*, traverses a mountainous country, a part of *Himalaya*, that is typically peripheric. The road I took is well-known since many years, and has been described several times. Still I enter my own geographical, topographical and hypsometrical observations, or, at any rate, their principal features, in order not to miss the opportunity of giving an example of the great morphological difference between the plateau-land with the horizontal lines prevailing, and the peripheric region with the vertical, or at least very steep lines, prevailing. The profile line of the route, of course, becomes very irregular on account of its not running along the river itself, which would be impossible, as the river flows, for long distances, in deep-cut gorges with vertical rocks. It runs wherever it is possible, between hills and across passes at the sides of the river. Therefore, though the road as a whole goes down, it sometimes happens that a certain camp has a greater altitude than the one preceding. During the first stages from *Serlep-yung*, where the slope downwards begins, the fall is very gradual, sometimes insignificant, though not quite as gentle as the *Gartong* and Upper *Indus*. The great differences of altitude belong to the latter half of the road.

Thus the section from *Serlep-yung* or *Camp CCCCLVI*, on a march of 13 km., on *July 29th*, 1908, to *Chukta-lungpa* or *Camp CCCCLVII*, the ground rises from 4,585 m. to 4,615 m. or 30 m. which is a rate of only 1:433. The rise of the