

or loess, though on the heights and in shallow valleys, gravel began to be more common. On the road to *Camp CCCCLXXVII*, living rock cropped out at the sides of small valleys, being on the first half of the road, greyish dark dense limestone as hitherto, and with a yellowish tint if weathered. As a rule, the strata are very folded.

At the left side of a valley of moderate size, there is a little monastery, *Sumurgompa* and two or three huts. *Ldat* is a right tributary valley to it. In the latter, we camped at a spring surrounded with grass. From *Camp CCCCLXXVII*, the view is far-reaching across the enormously accentuated and wild country to the N. E. and E. N. E., a labyrinth of deep-cut valleys coming down from the partly snow-covered *Ladak Range*, as shown on Pan. 551, Tab. 105.

On *August 21st*, we had a piece of road more accentuated and fantastic than ever. We made only 11 km. on the map —, in reality much more —, as the line is very undulated both horizontally and vertically. In the first 2.6 km., we rose 179 m. to the pass, *Dato-la*, 4,657 m. high, being a rate of 1:14.5. In the next 3.8 km., we sank no less than 830 m. or to the bottom of the valley of the *Ngari-tsangpo*, where the absolute altitude is only 3,827 m. On this section of the road, the fall has the enormous steepness of 1 m. on every 4.6 m. On the third section of this road, which is 4.6 km. in length, we ascend from 3,827 m. to 4,351 m. or 524 m., giving a rate of 1:8.8. These figures give a very good idea of the profile of this extraordinary country.

From *Camp CCCCLXXVII*, the road thus takes us up to the pass, *Dato-la*, from where we have a magnificent view of the valley of the River *Ngari-tsangpo*, enormously deep, cut down in solid rock, surrounded by the most picturesque landscape in all directions, with tributaries, and tributaries of tributaries, from the smallest ravines to large valleys joining the *Ngari-tsangpo*. From the cairn at the edge, the road seems to disappear in a vertical abyss. It runs down along the sides of the mountains, through narrow gorges, across projecting spurs. It took us one hour and a half to reach the bottom of the valley. At a period with heavy precipitation, the river has cut down its course with such force and in comparatively so short a lapse of time, that the weathering and destruction of the mountains at the sides have not been able to follow. Therefore, the sides of this river, from the edges of the plateau and down to its bottom, are so steep. *Optil* is the name of the natural bridge which has been formed by two or more enormous blocks fallen down from the slopes above. The river literally disappears under them. A fissure of 2 m. breadth is left open between the blocks and spanned over by a little wooden bridge, perhaps 25 m. above the river.

The river comes from N. N. W. So far as the eye reaches, it is as wild and narrow as here. It drains the district of *Chumurti* and the country south of the