

CHAPTER XXX.

THE PILGRIMS' ROAD AROUND THE KAILAS.

In this chapter I will insert a description of my journey on *September 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1907*, around the *Kailas*.¹ The first day we travelled N. E., N. N. E. and E. N. E. for 20.1 km. to the monastery of *Diri-pu-gompa* or *Camp CCXXXI*, being situated at an altitude of 5,091 m. The ascent is therefore 462 m. or 1:43.5. The first kilometers from *Khaleb* take us over gradually rising ground of gravel, sand and dust and covered with some tussock-grass. There are no old terraces or beach-lines to be seen, and such could not be expected around a lake which for so long a period has possessed an outlet.

Before entering the mountains we have to cross a belt of moraines consisting of gravel and blocks in great ridges and heaps, as a rule, stretching N. W.—S. E. From the tops of these old moraine heaps, the northern part of the *Rakas-tal* is again in sight; in the valleys between them everything around us is hidden. On the top of every large block there is a conical heap of small stones piled up by pilgrims. Such is the case the whole way along the road of pilgrimage around the *Sacred Mount*. Finally, the moraines become lower and cease altogether just before the entrance into the valley of the *Hlachu* brook, where the ground is soft and grass-covered, though in the very mouth some blocks are still laying about. Here the altitude is 4,700 m. The moraines outside the mouth of the valley betray a much more developed glaciation of the *Kailas* and its range in glacial and post-glacial time. Since then the ice-covering of the mountains has retreated gradually to the insignificant areas where ice is still existing, *i. e.* in the highest regions of the *Kailas Peak* and on the ridge east of it.

The valley, or rather the brook, is here called *Dunlung-chu* or *Dunlung-che* by the Tibetans, though it proved difficult to find out a reliable name known

¹ The march up to *Diri-pu-gompa* is shortly described in Vol. II, p. 211, in connection with the description of the journey to the source of the *Indus*. Here I give a more complete narrative of the whole *kore* or pilgrims' wandering round the mount, illustrated by the panoramas taken on the march.