

valley is a series of picturesque landscapes with surprising, wild perspectives up the side valleys and here and there with wide grass-grown plains. *Besh-terek*, *Karadung* and *Pokhtu* are valleys from the S. W., the last-mentioned being the largest, nearly as large as the *Keng-kol* itself. Here a little *caravanserai* is built.

At *Pokhtu* the first snow falls at end of September. As early as March it disappears. The summer is the rainy season, and it rains a good deal. A few days before our visit the precipitation had been so considerable that the *Keng-kol* had been difficult to cross. The N. N. E. wind was said to be rain-wind and snow-wind. The Kirgizes of this region are *Kipchak*, though no tents were now pitched at *Pokhtu*. In the summer they wander to the *yeilaks* of the higher regions, in the winter they go down the valley.

On June 28th we had 25 km. S. S. W., and W. S. W. up through the valley of *Keng-kol* ascending 352 m. to the *aul* of *Keng-kol*, where the altitude is 3,369 m., the rise being 1:71. The first part of this distance the valley is narrow; the latter, somewhat broader. The rock seems chiefly to be crystalline schist and porphyry. There are considerable screes and erosion terraces the whole way. The road is very good on soft, grassy ground, where the brook meanders in all directions. Here and there, especially along the foot of the mountains and in the bed of the brook, there is gravel. Marmots are numerous.

From the left or west the following tributaries enter: *Momolai-unkur*, *Saribeles*, *Kara-agil* with three *yeilaks* called *Pokhtu*, *Seki* and *Sokutash*; then follow *Kisil-tiken*, *Tuiuk-yar*, *Kasim-Bek*, *Kuruk-köntöi* a double valley, *Ak-tö* (*Ak-tuya*) with a seldomly used road, *Chaltash* and *Shamaldi*, which enters a little below our camp. From the right or east and S. E., we passed *Sasik-teke*, *Yarik-bash*, *Yeshil* with a road to *Yeshil-davan*, *Kisil-tau* and *Kisil*, *Tegen-ächik* a narrow gorge with high mountains on the sides and a road to *Tegen-ächik-davan* and *Yarkand*; *Arselik* a valley with *yeilaks* and a road by *Arselik-davan* to *Charling*; *Yalpak-tash*, and finally *Kashka-su*.

From the *aul* of *Keng-kol* there is a road to *Kara-tash* and *Kara-kul* crossing the Pass of *Boora*. The *Keng-kol* River, which at the *aul* had not quite 1 cub. m. of water per second, is formed by the brooks of *Kashka-su*, *Tamgara* and *Boora*, of which the first is the largest, although it may be regarded as a right tributary of the *Keng-kol*. The road to *Kara-tash* passes several *yeilaks*, amongst them *Burgen* and *Merke*, which we should touch on our return journey. A road from *Yarkand* to *Tagarma* passes along the *Charling* and *Kashka-su*. *Tamgara* is also a right tributary. *Billauli* and *Boora-jilga* are left tributaries above our camp. The latter leads to the *Boora* Pass beyond which there is another *Boora-jilga*, which leads to *Kara-tash*. From the *aul* of *Keng-kol* one day's journey was reckoned to *Kara-tash*, and thence two days to *Kara-kul*.