

considerable and flows in a delta of branches across its fan down to the *Taghdumbash-darya*. *Tisnep* is a large village said to consist of 200 clay huts within a wall of sun-dried bricks, and surrounded by fields.

Immediately to our right we have now one erosion terrace on the top of which the fortress and village of *Tash-kurgan* are built, reminding one of the situation of the little Russian fort of *Pamirskiy Post* on the *Murgab*. The fortress is at a short distance from the village, and its walls rise perpendicularly from the level surface of the terrace. These walls of *Tash-kurgan* had been very much damaged, and nearly all the houses of the village were destroyed by the earthquake which took place July 5th to 20th, and of which we experienced a shock at 8.10 a. m. on the 27th. All the inhabitants and the Chinese garrison were now living in tents outside of *Tash-kurgan*.

July 28th our road continued S. S. E. in the broad and open valley of *Taghdumbash-darya*. The distance was 32 km. and the rise 255 m., *Yergol*, our next camp, being situated at an altitude of 3,407 m.; the rate of ascent was 1:125. The *Taghdumbash* valley S. S. E. of *Tash-kurgan* is like a plain of the same kind as *Tagharma*. It consists of solid material and deposits brought down by the river and filling up the space between the mountains. The *Tagharma* is the result of the same kind of action carried out by the *Kara-su*. Both rivers, therefore, form alluvial plains before they break their way through the mountains.

To begin with we rode a few kilometers eastwards to the village of *Toglan-shah*, crossing the *Taghdumbash-darya* which here was divided into seven large and several small branches, carrying 50 or 60 cub. m. per second together. At this place the water was not clear. Between the branches there was excellent grazing-ground.

From *Toglan-shah* our direction becomes S. S. E. To our right or on the west we see the village of *Khosgun* situated near the mouth of the *Khosgun-jilga*, by which a road leads to a pass in the *Sarikol Range* that only can be crossed on foot. It is a short-cut road to *Aktash* on the upper *Ak-su*; the *Khosgun* road obviously enters the upper part of the *Shinde-jilga*. The mountains from which the *Khosgun* valley comes are considerable and snow-covered.

Farther south we have to our left, or east, the transverse valley of *Ograt* with a road to *Ograt-davan* in the *Kashgar Range* and, farther eastwards, to the villages of *Kochkar* and *Tong* and finally *Yarkand*. The pass is said to consist of two thresholds with a small lake or pool between. On our road is a village called *Togolak-gumbes*, surrounded with barley fields. A little farther south is *Yergol* with good grass. The river here flows in *one* bed. At the right or eastern side of the valley we passed several small *jilgas*. Sometimes the *Kashgar Range* grows into snowy groups, but glaciers are not seen. As a rule the vegetation is sparse,