

*Min-teke*, *Kalik* and other valleys contribute with their brooks. The name used here was *Taghding-bash*, not *Taghdum-bash*. It is also pronounced as *Taghden-bash* or *-bashi*; and by the Kirgiz as *Daghdum* or *Daghdam-bash*.

The Chinese power extends to *Vakjir*. A few days beyond this pass is the first Afghan post. At *Ak-tash* the Russian territory begins.

On August 13th our journey continued nearly west 27.6 km., and the ground ascended 227 m. or to 4,082 m., the rate thus being 1:121. The first half of the march the road sticks to the right bank where a little gravelly threshold is crossed, swept by the river. Beyond it there was an *aul* of 4 tents. The valley *Olauche* is to the south. Its neighbour to the west is called *Dastar* and has a brook of about 2 cub. m. per second. *Kashka-su* is the next tributary on the same side, and opposite it we pass the three *jilgas*, *Kosh-tube*.

From the gravelly terrace the road goes down to the considerable brook of *Min-teke* some 20 m. broad and 0.4 m. deep on an average, flowing across a good grazing-ground. The valley of *Min-teke* is broad and large. The road up to the pass was said to turn to the right; to the left a tributary valley called *Kachenai* enters the main valley. In the background a mighty snow-range rises.

Opposite *Min-teke*, to the north, we have the valley *Tamgetuk* with a brook in a widespread delta. Then follow at the southern side three considerable valleys, all called *Kara-jilga* by reason of the black schist cropping out here. Opposite the first of them we notice the valley *Otash*. The main valley then turned N. W. for a while, after which we passed the northern tributaries *Sari-tash* (= *Sarik-tash*) and *Kisil-dung*, both with brooks. *Sari-tash* leads to a pass which can be used on foot or with yaks.

A little beyond *Min-teke* we cross the *Taghdumbash River* to its left bank where there is now sufficient space for the road. The river flows here in two branches crossing a swampy meadow and with resp. about 7 and 22, or about 30 cub. m. of water per second. A considerable part of this volume comes from the *Tegirmen-su*, a northern tributary with a short-cut road to *Ak-su* and *Kisil-rabat*. The volume amounted to about 4 cub. m. per second. We camped in the angle between both rivers, which now were muddy after a clear day. In the afternoon the *Tegirmen-su* had a temperature of 10.2°, the *Taghdumbash* 11.6°. The latter, or main river, is also called *Kara-chukur* in its higher course.

From this place to the *Vakjir Pass* no Kirgizes live in the summer. In the winter some of them ascend a little higher up. Much snow falls, but usually it is blown away by the hard west winds. If it snows much and no wind blows, the snow accumulates and many sheep are lost. During such unfavourable winters the Kirgiz try to reach *Tagharma* early. The west wind prevails in winter, the summer is somewhat windy. Northern wind brings clouds and precipitation; western wind