

skin of my foot was exposed, and I had to hobble along on my toes or my heels to keep the worn-out part by the balls of my feet from the sharp stones and rocky *débris* of the glacier. On account of this tenderness of my feet, I was always slipping, too, falling and bruising my elbows, or cutting my hands on the rough stones in trying to save myself.

All that day we plodded wearily along down the glacier, till at sunset we came upon a little clump of fir trees on the mountain-side. Here we were able to make up as big a fire as we wished, and if we could only have had more to eat, would have been perfectly happy; but there was now no meat left, and tea and biscuit was all we had. Next day we reached the end of the glacier, and sleeping that night in a cave, on the following day made our last march into Askoli. Never did I think we were going to reach that spot! By midday we saw its green trees and fields in the distance; but I could only drag myself slowly along, as the way was rough and stony, and I was footsore and exhausted. At last, however, at four o'clock, we really entered the village. We sent for the headman, and told him to bring us some food.