

fuel except dung, but this seemed to provide the means of luxury when we contrasted our position with that of the greater portion of the caravan, compelled to spend the night on the cold, bare, and windswept slope not far from the top of the pass.

As soon as the caravan could be collected we resumed our march to the Lanak La. On the west side of the pass we halted for a day to rest the sheep, and allow the animals to have a good feed after the very scanty grazing they had found in Chang Chenmo.

In the night between the 16th and 17th of June the thermometer fell to 8° Fahr. at an altitude of 17,450 feet, or only 500 feet lower than the Lanak La, which was quite free from snow when we crossed it on the 18th.

This pass was an easy one, but as to the country beyond I now felt some anxiety. We knew that Bower, Dalgleish, Carey and De Rhins, and possibly one or two other Europeans, had been over the ground, but the only maps we possessed were on too small a scale to be of much assistance. Beyond the pass there was no track. Our predecessors had come and gone, but the country bore no evidence that any traveller had ever passed that way. Pike had marvellous skill in finding the track of animals, but he could not discover a vestige of the visit of any human being.

After leaving Camp 2, Shum, the men who came with the hired transport from Fobrang professed ignorance of the route, so that Pike and I had to guide the caravan through an unknown land. On the second day after crossing the frontier at the Lanak La we passed into a long, broad, and well-watered valley, to the east of which, we knew, lay Horpa or Gurmen Cho, but beyond this we had no definite knowledge of the country.

My plan was to visit the north side of Horpa or Gurmen Cho, Captain Bower having gone by the opposite