

ments of the occasion, the parting being only for a few weeks.

Returning towards our old route, we pitched our camp, at the end of the second day's march, two miles east of Camp 91, beside a copious spring of fairly good water, though only a little fodder was found for the animals. The boortza root served for fuel, and the short growth was sufficient for the sheep and donkeys, which crop very close; but the ponies were very scantily fed.

It now became clear that the information supplied by Changfûnchuk was not trustworthy. In his exploration he had not started morning by morning with the rising sun on his left, but on his right, his direction having been north of east. After repeatedly questioning him, I found it was useless to go further east from Camp 99. Besides, this route was nearly destitute of fodder, but the hope of reward had affected Changfûnchuk's view of the region, and had made him blind to its difficulties.

In returning westwards I climbed a very steep and sharp-pointed mountain, whose summit from a distance seemed broader than it was. I contrived, with the assistance of a pony in the lower portion of the ascent, and of men in the higher, to get the theodolite carried to the top, where, earlier in the day, Islam had erected a pillar. The summit contained just space enough for the stand of the theodolite, and I had to move about very cautiously. The western side was for some distance quite vertical, and the other side was so steep that, if one had slipped in any direction, he would have met a speedy death. We made our footing less insecure by clearing away the loose stones, and as there was no wind we were free from one frequent cause of trouble. From this point we could see the stately range on the east of the Kiria River, stretching towards the north-east beyond the