

spot was said to be Bu Kujerab. Looking up the valley we saw, in the foreground, only sand, stones, jilgan,* chekundo,† and some half-dead trees, while further on, the lofty, vertical cliffs seemed to draw closer together and completely bar our way. At the foot of the cliffs ran the stream too deep to ford and too thinly frozen to bear even a light man's weight. Beside us not a blade of grass was to be found, though the hungry animals searched diligently. Sonam, with one of the camelmén and both the camels, went to look for a ford, while Ram Singh and I examined the steep left bank in the hope of finding some place where the rocks could be scaled by men. Sonam found a ford, but it was useless, for beyond it the deep river filled the gorge from the one vertical rock to the other so that progress was impossible. Dividing the barley and Indian corn into two feeds, one for the evening and the other for the next morning, we resolved to spend the next day in returning to Nosh Tung. That night we tried to keep our spirits up by the cheery glow of large camp fires of dry wood, which lay about in abundance. But the circumstances were depressing, and I felt the dissatisfaction caused by failure even though only temporary. The position of this camp (No. 126), as determined astronomically, was only about ten miles from my goal, and yet I had to turn back.

Ram Singh was hopeful of finding some accessible and commanding hill to scale on the following morning. I strictly enjoined him to incur no serious risk in the enterprise, but at the same time arranged that one day's supplies, and also extra clothing for the night, should be left for him and another man at the tower of Bu Kujerab.

* A kind of tamarisk.

† *Calligonum polygonoides*. This is largely used for adulterating the tobacco chewed by natives. It is a north-easterly extension of what had been hitherto received only from Egypt, Syria, Persia, Punjab and Scinde.