

I wished to retain the services of the two new men; and although, through Mohammed Joo, I offered them wages many times greater than they could possibly get otherwise, they declined all overtures, and returned to their own land.

Being doubtful whether water could be obtained close to the north side of the At To Pass, I set out early in the morning to make a search. On my way I saw one very obvious effect of the rain and sleet: the stones, loosened by the superabundant moisture, rolled and bounded down the mountain-sides in showers, from which it was at times necessary to take shelter under the cliffs. On overtaking the two men who had been sent forward with the transport sheep, I sent back Stanzin, who had been accustomed to caravan work, and I endeavoured to take his place. The work of driving sheep was new to me, and, simple though it may appear, I found it very difficult. The animals, hungry and scared by the falling stones, could not be made to go forward, but remained huddled together in the bottom of the narrow valley, in spite of all my shouting and pushing and stone-throwing. Recognising that sheep-driving was not my proper vocation, I left them to Nurbu and went to look for water. My search was fruitless, so that we had to halt in the valley at the furthest place where water could be found. By the time I had helped Nurbu to unload the sheep I felt weary, feverish, and too weak to return to the caravan. For several hours I spent the time in alternately looking for the caravan and seeking shelter in a dry but shallow water-course from the blinding snowstorm, while the tired sheep wandered about, bleating pitifully, searching for grass where no grass was to be found. Then Niaz Akun came up and reported that one of my ponies had fallen over the precipice and been killed. The pony, he said, was one which had carried money, and its load had