

been down to 28.4° , and the ground has been so cooled down that rime lies on every available object, as, for instance, the camels' forelocks, and were there any plants at the spring they would be white as usual. A thin crust of ice forms on all exposed metal objects, which may be slipped off like a glove or a snake skin.

This abundant moisture, which penetrates everything, renders the loads sensibly heavier; the tents are drenched, and when they are spread out on the ground to be folded up, fine loose particles of earth cling to the cloth and are carried as ballast on to the camels. Our honest guide is now to return, according to our agreement, but we have so much straw left that he is easily persuaded to let us have the use of two of his camels for another day's march. The herd of 200 camels, which the herdsman we saw yesterday and two other men led to water at the well of Tallhe, are a fine sight. Most of them are mares and carry small cloths, but a number of foals also jump playfully round their mothers.

We set out slowly and heavily after having left eight of the auxiliary camels, though our water sacks were now empty and a large part of the straw was consumed. A path led us south-south-westwards along the foot of these hills, which are red at the bottom with finely powdered sandstone and yellowish white above from solid weathered rocks. One of the usual shallow flat trenches leads us south-eastwards; it is very deeply scored by running water, and in its bed lie sand, pebbles, and mud in alternate belts. Occasionally a block of quartzite some 70 cubic feet in volume is seen, but otherwise the detritus consists chiefly of crystalline rocks, greenstone, and porphyry. The dell becomes more winding and narrower as we ascend it, and all is disintegrated, weathered down, and soft; the ground is wet and sticky, and in the red material especially we collect a layer an inch thick on our soles, which we stamp off on the belts of detritus. At one place the dell contracts to a narrow hollow way between very steep erosion terraces and mounds.

This dell also, like so many others before, runs up to a flat plateau-like arch where the shrubs grow rather more