

fashion the difference in climatic conditions which prevail on the opposite sides of the range.

The Dzungarian slopes are clothed higher up with a belt of magnificent conifer forest, and lower down afford abundant grazing. On the other side, the descent to the south lay through utterly barren valleys of bare rock and detritus. It was a fit preparation for the aridity of the deeply depressed Turfan basin where irrigation alone permits of plant growth and civilized human existence.