

down into a remarkably steep valley, the rock faces of which, mostly slate or chalk, looked as if cut by some former glacier. The track kept to the narrow boulder-filled bed of a stream, and was in many places very difficult for laden animals.

But at last, after some seven miles, this trying valley debouched on a broad, undulating expanse above the right bank of the Su-lo Ho. There at an elevation of about 12,400 feet we pitched camp, this time in a more compact formation. Our Chinese, in addition to all their other fears, were now getting apprehensive of 'wild Tibetans'; and as Kozloff appears to have met with Tangut encampments at the head of the Su-lo Ho valley, it seemed wise to keep a look-out for these pilfering nomads. No humans came to disturb our peace, nor did we see traces of any until eight days after. But as Chiang reported later, all the Chinese were disturbed that night by the sound of—dragons!