

tween 15,000 and 18,000 feet above the sea lie the Silurian strata ; and the foundation of the chain is composed of granite.]

The loftiest point of the Earth which man has succeeded in attaining, the most elevated region where he has planted his adventurous foot, is the Himalayan. Here, on the 19th of August 1855, the brothers Schlagintweit, those gallant Bavarians in whom an enthusiastic scientific ardour was combined with the most heroic perseverance, ascended, on the peak of *Ibi-Gamin*, to the height of 22,000 feet.

The narrative of this remarkable enterprise cannot fail to interest the reader. We give it, in a condensed form, from the report addressed by Adolphe and Robert von Schlagintweit to the Government of British India :—

We quitted Milum on the 6th of July, accompanied by Mani and a sufficiently numerous suite, because it was necessary we should despatch our baggage to Niti by another route. After traversing the col of Outa-Dhoura, we ascended with a few attendants to the Pass of Janti, 18,500 feet above the sea-level.

We rested there three days, profiting by so excellent an opportunity of making various experiments at so great a height. From thence we went to Laptel, where the Tibetan authorities, to our great disappointment, did us the honour of providing us with an escort of nine Houniahs, who busied themselves in throwing every obstacle in our way to prevent our crossing the mountain-barrier, which still separated us from Tibet properly so called. We were compelled to submit to a delay of three days ; but there, as at Janti, we made a tolerable collection of fossils from the Silurian epoch to the Jurassic period.

In the hope of deceiving the vigilance of our guard of honour, we began our journey towards Niti, and having halted on the 16th, endeavoured under cover of night to effect our escape.

Leaving behind all our camp, and taking with us only four horsemen, and four horses loaded with provisions and the most needful instruments, we marched throughout all that night and the following day. In the evening we arrived at that alluvial plain which fills up the broad valley of the Sutlej. We thought ourselves then in safety, and were on the point of choosing a small lateral valley in whose shelter to pass the night, when we descried our cavalier-guard following rapidly in our track. Mani advised us to show no feelings of apprehension. They approached with loud cries and shouts ; the two who first came up made a pretence of seizing the bridles of our horses. To this we replied with some vigorous blows of our hunting-whips, which made their faces tingle, and surprised them greatly. They leaped to the ground, saluted us, and declared that they were our friends (at Laptel we had given them a few rupees), but that they had received strict orders not to lose sight