



Fig. 276. ON THE TOP OF A HIGH THRESHOLD WITH A THIN COVERING OF SNOW.

On the 1st January 1900 bajir No. 38 proved less serviceable to us than its predecessors, for its floor was in great part studded with small dunes, difficult to travel amongst; its vegetation was much more scanty, and the dune-masses which surrounded it were unmistakably lower. Traces of the two rodents I have alluded to were quite common. The threshold at the southern end of the bajir turned out extremely deceptive. We made of course for its lowest saddle; but this, instead of soon coming to an end, continued to ascend higher and higher, and gradually passed over into a labyrinth of large, but perfectly barren, dunes, amongst which there was



Fig. 277. GOING DOWN THE LEE SIDE OF A HIGH, SNOW-COVERED THRESHOLD.

but a solitary tamarisk or two to be seen. Climbing to the top of a high dune, we looked, but looked in vain, for the next bajir; the bajirs seemed now definitely to have come to an end. We had a free sweep for a long distance to the south, where the dunes appeared to be all of the same height; the gigantic dune-walls on the left were no longer present; the desert architecture seemed all of a sudden to have changed. Fortunately the dunes still lay favourable for us, from north-north-west to south-south-east, and turned their steep faces towards the west-south-west.