

## CHAPTER I.

### OVER THE ASTIN-TAGH.

On the 30th June in the year 1900 I left Jurt-tschapghan intending to travel, viâ Abdal and Kum-tschapghan, to the southern shore of the Kara-koschun, and from there to the well of Dunglik. This, the first day's march, which belongs to the lake area, has been already described. I shall still continue to adhere to the plan



Fig. 1. ON THE ROAD TO TIBET.

which I have hitherto followed, of describing and discussing day by day the physical geography of the country travelled through, as well as jotting down the observations I made each day. I advance no claims to be a specialist in geology, and shall therefore content myself with brief indications of the dip of the strata and the macroscopic features of the mountains. The rock specimens that I collected will be dealt with by expert geologists in a separate section of the work. My descriptive text will still continue to form a faithful running commentary upon the map; and after the