

July 20th. Camp No. IX in the glen of Mandarlik was the starting-point for our first big excursion of that year into eastern Tibet. I took with me only a part of the men and animals (camels and horses); the rest were left at Mandarlik, with instructions to move after a time to the lower part of the *jar* of the Temirlik, which I had selected to be our headquarters, base of operations, and rendezvous. During my absence regular meteorological observations were taken first at Mandarlik and afterwards at Temirlik, and at the same time the self-registering instruments were never stopped.



Fig. 36. A MOUNTAIN MASSIV JUST ABOVE MANDARLIK.

Of the two component glens which unite to form the glen of Mandarlik the western glen is the larger, and it is from it that the water flows. From it too a path is said to lead over the Tschimen-tagh, although the pass at the top is said to be difficult; at any rate it is only used by hunters. I chose therefore the eastern branch, which was then quite dry. It is shut in by hills of soft earth and moderate elevation, and possesses some vegetation. But these hills are backed by much higher cliffs, of wild and majestic aspect, and more or less serrated crest. Some distance up we came to the meeting-place of the three head-glens that form this eastern arm. We chose the middle one. It is tolerably short, is inclosed between soft hills, and leads up to a small secondary pass. But the most important of these three head-glens is the one that comes from the east: it is broad and open, and affords a splendid view of the wild and lofty summit of the subsidiary range which strikes off northwards from the Tschimen-tagh and extends as far as our camp at Mandarlik. The third or western of these three head-glens appears to originate in the main range of the Tschimen-tagh, beginning immediately underneath its snow-fields. The descent from the little pass on the southern side is very easy; from it stretch towards the south-east rather extensive grazing-grounds over a soft, undulating surface. Immediately to the south-west of it rises a vast bluff of black rock, jutting out like