

gated, free-standing ridge (fig. 261), with a bare precipitous slope towards the south. The main watercourse of the valley runs along the northern face of this ridge; but in two places the latter is broken by side-glens coming out of the main range to the south. These transverse glens cut through diagonally, and join the main watercourse at an acute angle.



Fig. 263. OUR CAMELS WALKING AMONGST SNOW.

After the median ridge comes to an end, the valley itself narrows. The northern range assumes more imposing dimensions, but still continues to consist of soft material and has rounded outlines. Sometimes we marched along the bed of the watercourse, sometimes on the scarped banks at the sides, though it was tiring work crossing over the innumerable rivulets and contributories, with their steep slopes and gravel-choked bottom. Higher up the snow lay thicker, and at last was of great depth. In some places it formed an unbroken sheet, being hard and tough as parchment on the surface. In the sheltered hollows it was in especial heaped up in enormous masses. The vegetation in the valley was relatively abundant and the grass good; here and there, both in the main valley and in the mouths of the side-glens, balghun bushes were growing. In a couple of places we perceived traces of tame camels: the Särtäng Mongols occasionally visit the Anambaruin-gol. Yakdung was common, evidently left by wild yaks. Wild-sheep and partridges were numerous. Camp CXV was pitched immediately west of the flat threshold in the latitudinal valley, the inducement being both grazing and japkak scrub. The altitude was 3700 m.

At Sume the range consisted of a hard, dark, fine-grained species of rock, dipping 78° towards the S. 18° E. The small free-standing ridge was built up of a similar rock, though lighter in colour and dipping 78° towards the S. 55° E. The southern range was composed of green schist dipping 75° S. Generally speaking