



Fig. 272. GOING DOWN FROM THE PASS OF SCHO-OVO-TU.

in Särtäng; but their nomadic wanderings appear to be rather irregular, for very often they spend the warm seasons also in the mountains. It may seem strange, that these Mongols should pass the warm season in the lowlands and the cold season in the mountains, but as a matter of fact the winters are less severe in the mountains than on the plains of Särtäng, and it is evident that the winter grazing in the mountains is better than that in the plains, otherwise they would order their migrations in a different way.

The neighbourhood in which we pitched Camp CXXII is notorious for the extremely violent winds that occur even when the sky is clear. This day the sky was however covered with clouds, and consequently the atmosphere was almost still. When the sky is clear, this furious wind rushes over the pass of Scho-ovo-tu in veritable cascades; never in fact have the Mongols experienced a clear day in winter on which the weather was still. They pointed out where we ought to put up our tents so as to have them to some extent protected, and we noticed that their own yurts were exceptionally fastened down with ropes anchored to great blocks of stone. This furious wind is however only characteristic of the cold season, the summer is calm. Close under the pass and in the neighbourhood of our Camp CXXII the wind is icy cold, but lower down the glen it is warmer. Probably it is a variety of Föhn, conditioned in some way by the peculiar relations of altitude, the country to the south of the range lying much higher than the country to the north of it. Shortly afterwards we had an opportunity to observe a similar phenomenon in the throat of one of the northerly glens of Anambaruin-ula, and a similar cascade of wind pours with inconceivable violence down into the glen of Baltal over the stupendous staircase of Sodschi-la (Zoji-la) on the road from Ladak to Kaschmir.



Fig. 273. SECTION OF VALLEY AT CAMP CXXII.