

CHAPTER XXXI.

OVER THE ARKA-TAGH FROM KAPA.

In order that I may gather together into one place all my investigations into northern and eastern Tibet, I have thought well to introduce into this volume a short account of the journey which I carried out in August and September 1896 in the great latitudinal valley that lies immediately south of the Arka-tagh, and is itself bordered on the opposite or southern side by the flat range which constitutes the westward continuation of the Koko-schili.*



Fig. 392. KAPA.



Fig. 393. THE VALLEY OF KAPA LOOKING S.

On 30th July 1896 I started from the gold-mines of Kapa (alt., 2521 m.) with a big caravan of horses, camels, and asses, intending to travel *viâ* Julhun-tschap, Kara-tasch, and Toghrak-tschap to Dalai-kurghan, crossing over the gentle spurs of the mountains on my way. I had been told by the natives, that at the place last-mentioned one could advantageously find a way up to the Tibetan highland. Our route crossed over the river Mit, which comes down out of a wild and spacious transverse glen opening out directly south. Shortly after emerging from the mountains, this glen expands to a breadth of several hundred meters, but still continues to be inclosed between steep gravel-and-shingle terraces. The river, which unites lower down with the Kara-muran, contained at that time no small amount of water, though it was divided into several branches scattered over its stony bed. The rock there consisted of a grey biotitic granite of medium grain. A steep path leads down the

* I have already described it in *Peterm. Mitteil.*, Ergänzhft. No. 131, pp. 271 ff., and of that description the present is a condensed extract.