

their flocks farther north to lower and less snowy regions. In summer the rainfall is abundant and is brought by westerly winds, this being the predominant quarter. The easterly wind is feeble. Although this region lies so close to the Lop-nor country, the winds that obtain here, at the northern foot of the Kwen-lun, are quite different, and the violent east-north-easterly tempests do not appear to reach up as far as this region.



Fig. 395. VIEW FROM DALAI-KURGHAN-ART LOOKING SSW TOWARDS LAMA-TSCHIMEN.

Two passes lead across the northern border-range of the Kwen-lun system. With the object of examining one of these, Tschokalik-davan, I made a three days' excursion from our principal camp. At first the ascent was steep over gentle grassy hills, but subsequently we followed the glen of the Dalai-kurghan towards the south-east and south-south-west. The little secondary pass of Dalai-kurghan-art, which is situated in purely soft country and is easy to cross over, reached nevertheless an altitude of 4367 m., so that by this we had already climbed more than 1000 m. To the south-south-west extended the high plain of Lama-tschimen, bounded on the south by a huge range, and crossed by the river Mit, which, after making a bend towards the west, pierces the northernmost of the border-ranges by a north-going glen. Upon getting over the pass we turned eastwards at a sharp angle, thereby gaining a view to the south across the broad valley of the Mit. On our left we passed the entrance to the Sarik-kol-jilgha, and continued to ascend slowly over hard easy-going ground. The glen of Lama-tschimen, the eastern part of which is traversed by a little brook, is inclosed north and south between lofty crests, then perfectly free from snow. In the same range in which the Dalai-kurghan-art is situated there are two other passes, approached by the transverse glens of Tschirak-



Fig. 396. FROM TSCHOKALIK-DAVAN TOWARDS THE ENE.