

on these flat passes in the peripheral regions of high Asia. On this pass the schists dipped  $30^{\circ}$  N. As we now proceeded to travel towards the east-south-east, the range which we had on our left hand was much steeper than that on the right; in the former the heads of the strata crop out at the surface as dark bands or edges, but the latter range has far gentler slopes. Camp XXXVII stood at an altitude of 4399 m., so that we were decidedly reaching lower regions. Here we came across an unusually artistic obo built up of large slabs of slate (see fig. 450 and 451).



Fig. 456. GRANITE CLIFFS ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE VALLEY OF IKE-TSOHAN-GOL.

On 1st October we proceeded further down the same valley, which contains yet two other obos. The inscriptions on the slabs that face west are almost obliterated, though on all others they are in a good state of preservation, a clear proof that the prevailing winds come from the west. Immediately after that our glen joins the main glen coming from the S.  $75^{\circ}$  W. The stream in the latter carried 7 cub.m. in the second, and was evidently the same river as that which we forded below Camp XXXV — a confirmation that this was the upper course of the Nadschi-muren (Nadschi-muren or Nadschin-gol). The range on the left side of the united stream at the confluence consists partly of the usual schists, partly of a light-coloured, moderately coarse, muscovitic granite. A little lower down than this we met the first Mongols. They called that locality Mössöto; its altitude was only 4249 m. The river-bed is there inclosed between rather high eroded terraces or escarpments. A round-topped mountain, which rose north of our camp, appeared to consist, so far as we could see, of granite, though the very highest top of all looked like a dark-coloured schist, into which the granite penetrated in the form of intrusive »fingers» and veins.