

## CHAPTER XI.

### THE LAKOR-TSO AND ITS BEACH-LINES.

We now beheld, to the north-east and east, the southern slopes of the rugged, craggy range along the northern foot of which we had recently marched. From the little threshold-pass we obtained an uninterrupted view of the next latitudinal valley, which comes from the east and at this point debouches upon the Lakor-tso depression. The surface inclines gently towards an expansion of this valley. Next we crossed a definitely bounded area, dotted over with gypsum mounds. Grass began to make its appearance and on the northern bank of a not inconsiderable stream it was of relatively good quality. On the right or northern bank of this stream we formed Camp CVIII, at an altitude of 4578 m. above sea-level. This district was called Tsotschin-nagmo by some of the Tibetans. The river is said to be the Some-tsangpo, though others asserted that it was the Nevu-tsangpo, while yet others, and they seemed to be the better informed, told me that the latter name belongs to a stream flowing farther to the south. On the south the new latitudinal valley is bordered by a range of moderate elevation, then slightly sprinkled with snow. This is said to be the Dargin, and beyond it again rises a snow-capped mountain called the Tschingbo-gangla. To a snowy mass visible a good long way off in the west my Tibetans gave the name of Marmik-java-godsom, and to the range on the north side of the valley which we had last traversed Amur. My Tibetan escort endeavoured to induce me to return to the latitudinal valley by which Littledale travelled; they appeared to regard it as the natural »gutter» by which to get rid of undesirable Europeans. But when I declared that it was my intention to follow a more southerly route, they admitted, that from that locality two roads lead west, though they unite again after three days in a district called Schabgo. The southern route is said to pass through the district of Luma-nagmo, the northern by the side of Serkem, a mountain situated to the north-west. After the two routes reunite, they traverse a district called Dschivu-tsaga, in which is a salt lake. Our escort was repeatedly changed; the guards who now joined us said they were subject to the chief Jamnu Bombo, who ruled over the district of Sengor, from the eastern boundary of which we were then reported to be a couple of days distant. West of it lies, I was told, the country of Girki, and beyond that Tok-dschalung. Several of these names are not reliable, because I had no means of checking them.