

CHAPTER XII.

FROM THE LAKOR-TSO TO THE BONDSCHING-TSO.

From the highest point that we measured we continued along the foot of the mountains until we came to a little flat col (4,688 m.), forming a water-divide between the Lakor-tso and quite a small lake, intensely salt, situated immediately west of it, and according to my aneroids at an altitude of 4,572 m. On its southern shore two broad gullies intersect one another, and upon them open out a number of transverse glens which cut their way through the southern range. These two gathering gullies are separated from one another by a ridge running north and terminating at the lake in a free-standing, conical mountain, which goes down abruptly into the water. The shores of the lake, with the exception of that on the west, are mountainous, and where flat they, like the corresponding shores of the Lakor-tso, are white with deposits of gypsum, and the water has the same beautiful, pure green tint. After crossing over the second gully, we reached the shore, which we were forced by a steep headland to follow for a short distance. Hence we obtained a good view of the little lake, which is as usual elliptical in shape, with its long axis stretching from east to west. On its northern shore rises a not inconsiderable mountain-range, the western section of which is reproduced on Plate 29 To the N. 59° E. towered up the peak A₃, and behind it, to the N. 61° E. another, belonging to a higher and more northerly range. The strip of level shore is broader in the north-east and gleams white with gypsum. Along the line of continuation of the lake towards the east there is a very low pass, separating this lake from the adjacent Lakor-tso. The acclivity from the eastern shore of the lake up to this little pass is moderately steep, and on the slopes facing west there are again some strand-terraces, indicated with great sharpness and distinctness.

After skirting round the headland, we marched up a rather steep transverse glen, which there debouches upon the lake, and approached a small and in every way secondary pass, and then on the other side of it descended into a similar transverse glen, in the lower part of which we made Camp CX, at an altitude of 4,596 m., that is not very much higher than the lake.

On the declivity leading down from this little pass the old strand-terraces, although situated in detritus, but detritus that is still fairly hard and consolidated,