

CHAPTER XIV.

THE TSOLLA-RING-TSO AND THE LUMA-RING-TSO.

On the 2nd November we continued towards the north-west, up the broad latitudinal valley and nearer to the bordering mountains on the south. The protuberance which I had designated O₃ turned out to be the fork or foreshortening of a range, which however came to an end, after we had had it for a few kilometers on our right hand. It is almost separate from the neighbouring mountains and does not border the latitudinal valley anywhere on the north. After we had passed it, there appeared in its place other mountains, tolerably low. M₃ and N₃, which had also appeared at first to be detached peaks, turned out to be similar bifurcations of ranges that run parallel to our valley and form part of its northern boundary.

Leaving on our left the little belt of bushes, we crossed over a small spring-fed rivulet, which was flowing towards the north, where it entered a running stream, the name of which was, I was told, Ombo-tsangpo. This issues out of the mountains to the south-west and proceeds N. 65° E. to the Perutse-tso. It is said to be fed exclusively from springs, which are numerous in the mountains to the south-west. So far as we could see it was at that time everywhere frozen, this being a consequence of the exceedingly gentle fall; and to the same cause must be attributed the extraordinary way in which the river winds. But the ice was not yet sufficiently strong: for while it bore men on foot well enough, and even horses in places, the yaks went through, and so we made them open a passage through the ice for the camels. Both the depth and the volume were then small.

The mountain in the west-south-west was called Ombo-jutse, but beyond it appeared a higher crest, with some snow on it, called Nagbo-tsesum. One or two dry watercourses made their way towards the lake. We passed a second belt of balghun bushes on our left hand, growing at the foot of a distinctly defined terrace at the base of the mountains. As the slope there is extraordinarily gentle, this terrace can hardly lie higher than the highest of those which we measured last; perhaps it corresponds to the third or the fourth of them.

Not far west of a locality called Nagnar, at the foot of the southern mountains, is the outlet of a transverse glen of considerable size, coming from the south-south-west and called Pamo-ka. Through it a track is said to lead to a district known as