

moreover it was caked with unbroken ice, formed through the freezing of the water that drops during the day from the melting snows above. In fact, it would be actually dangerous to venture on it without axes, a rope to tie you all together, and



Fig. 298. THE SAME.



Fig. 299. ON THE ROAD TO SODSCHI-LA, MARCH 1902.

trusty and vigilant guides to help you. For on your left yawns the abyss, the bottom of which you often cannot see in consequence of the precipitous character of the slope and projecting cornices that screen it from above.