

ornamented *tschortens*, and we also passed several rounded or elongated stone kists with *mane* slabs. The entrance to the glen forms a narrow gateway, and after we got in amongst the mountains we travelled almost due west. Twice we crossed over the rather deeply incised watercourse, the second time on a bridge. At that spot there had been a running brook, though it was then for the most part filled with ice. In the narrow, picturesque glen poplars are fairly numerous. Again we passed a stone kist, for which there was barely room in the bottom of the glen. Above it rose wild and rugged cliffs, and at the head of the glen snow-clad mountains were visible. Before us, at the foot of a precipitous cliff, stood the monastery of Hemi, a slightly packed complex of houses, clinging to the steep face of the rock one above the other like swallows' nests, all of them cubical or oblong-shaped; they looked as if they stood in imminent peril of being crushed by a fall of rock from above. However there is one predominant façade, and with it the fronts of the other houses are all built parallel. As I have given a brief description of Hemi in my popular book, I need not delay longer over it here.



Fig. 306. DANCING GIRLS OF LADAK.

The next day the sky was heavy with clouds, and at 3 p.m. it snowed. We again went down to the Indus, which we crossed on a swinging bridge. Even in the short interval of one day the volume appeared to have increased somewhat, and the stream was muddier, and was rushing tumultuously down between its vertical escarpments of gravel-and-shingle. Shortly afterwards we again struck the road that we had travelled on in December, the road that leads up through the side glen to the pass of Tschang-la. The volume of the brook in this side-glen was considerably smaller than when we saw it before; but probably the greater