

After we had travelled for a good distance in a direction east and north-east, we again turned towards the north, and having forded the stream yet once again, we struck up the left side of the glen, where the slope was less steep. At length the river appeared like a deep-sunk gorge far down below our feet. The slope on the opposite or right side retains its precipitous character the whole of the way. It rises practically sheer from the bottom of the glen, and wears a dark and forbidding, yet impressive aspect. The road keeps amongst soft material, consisting of stones, gravel, and finer detritus, and is relatively well cared for, although constantly exposed to rock-slides from above. The climb up out of the glen is very appreciable, yet in any case easier than the gorge, which was



Fig. 318. A HALL IN THE TEMPLE OF HEMI.

growing increasingly ruder and more constrained down in the depths below. It was however only the lowest part of a mountain-spur that we had to get over. Its culminating point is crowned by a cairn of stones, an obo decorated with flags. After that we again descended, and the country grew more and more open. Before us lay spread out the big, broad valley of Schejok, with its level gravelly floor,

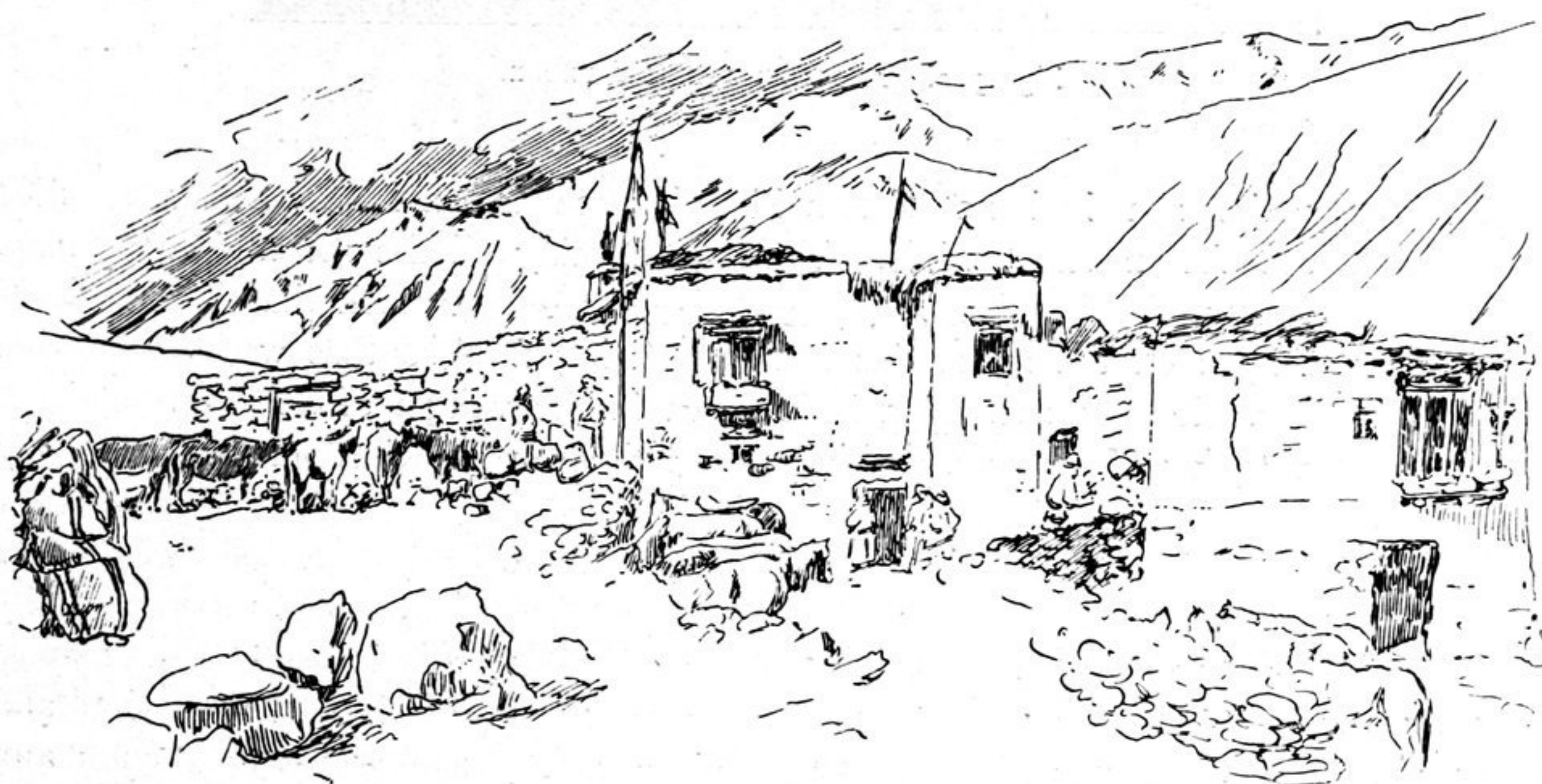


Fig. 319. OUR HOUSE IN SCHEJOK.