



Fig. 13. Camp on the lower Dunda-gol

man of forty-five, who managed his father's business and looked after all the affairs of the tribe, was up and about and had received HUMMEL and HASLUND two weeks previously.

Early in the afternoon MATE LAMA came back with a rather strange answer from the prince. The message was to the effect that he could not receive us on that day, which was the twenty-fifth in their month, as this date was not a happy or suitable one for a visit. He would send a courier to our camp on the 28th or 29th, wherever we happened to be, and let us know which day suited him. We thought this answer almost insulting. Did he really imagine that after four days, when we should probably be far from his residence, we should turn back for the sole purpose of paying him a visit, when he had refused to receive us when we were camping practically at his doorstep. SIU opined that a little chief of ninety-seven tents was not superior in rank to the magistrate of a small Chinese town, and that it was incumbent upon such a princeling to be polite when the leaders of a great expedition came to his territory. But on the other hand the man could hardly be expected to know what sort of people we were, political agents, spies or white robbers. LARSON was of the opinion, and SIU shared his view, that immediately