



Fig. 14. Surroundings of the camp on October 19th

Finally, I stated it as my express desire to be allowed to recompense him for the damage to his pastures by the camels we should be leaving behind over the winter, and I begged him to tell me if there were any foreign article that he desired, that I would then send him through the head of the station. He answered immediately that he would very much appreciate a really good pair of field-glasses (an article, by the way, that is very highly valued by Mongols).

REACHING SOGHO-NOR

As soon as the Torgut prince had ridden off we hastened down to the boat. We had not drifted for half an hour before we reached the point where the Dunda-gol divides to form two arms. The left one seeped through a marsh, against which we had been warned; the right arm became very narrow and winding and had a little waterfall. The latter was found to be three meters across and had a fall of one meter. The banks formed almost vertical walls of two or two and a half meters in height. After leaving the boat to negotiate the waterfall by itself we continued drifting down the narrow and winding channel. We were swept at a terrific speed down some small rapids, and had our work cut out to keep our crazy vessel on a straight course. In one of the rapids we did not manage to clear the boat. It swung round broadside on and stuck fast. The water threatened to fill one of the canoes, but HASLUND succeeded in getting clear and the wild race commenced again.

After our arm had received a contribution of water from the left arm the breadth increased to from twelve to twenty meters. The vegetation on the banks grew thinner. Finally, the countryside was completely sterile and large areas were covered with dried and cracked mud.

When we had voyaged for three hours we put in to the bank and rested for