



Fig. 20. Erecting my yurt

MEETING WITH NORIN'S COLUMN

The next night the temperature sank to -7° C. The storm had somewhat abated, but the wind in the morning was still hard. On continuing to the N. N. W. we caught up a small caravan, whose fires we had seen at some distance from our storm-camp. To our surprise and satisfaction we found that it was NORIN, who with BERGMAN and MARSCHALL, had by a more direct road thus cut across our caravan route. We arranged with them that they should accompany us for some marches, and that I should then take the more northerly route while they took their way through unknown country to the south thereof. In this way we could from two different directions map the mountain system that would separate us. The Mongols called this chain of mountains Kuku-tumurtin-ula or «The Blue Iron Mountain». We proceeded together, then, over hard ground, sometimes sparsely covered with thorny tussocks, but often completely sterile. Here and