



Fig. 25. Yaltsang, a lama from Alakshan who served as guide for Norin's column

chair, the camels and provisions he had asked for. But then again MARSCHALL had a wonderful way with him. He would eat, drink and joke with people in a way that made them consider him as one of themselves. He treated also the natives like human beings, was polite and friendly to them and never tried to bludgeon them into doing what he wished.

We resumed our westward journey. The temperature had been as low as $-21^{\circ}.7$ C. The landscape was monotonous, and completely dominated by Qar-liq-tagh. On the 13th we covered 23.5 kilometers and on the 14th eleven kilometers.

We ought now soon to fall in with frontier patrols from Sinkiang. We set a south-westerly course in order to reach the road that on STEIN's map is marked between Ming-shui and Barkul. In the course of the day we also crossed this route. We saw fifty wild asses browsing in three herds by the wayside, a splendid spectacle! On this day we managed twenty-one kilometers.

On the 16th it began to snow; and soon the ground was everywhere quite white. The flakes even came whirling into my sedan-chair, so that I, too, received an extra white covering. The 17th of January was a brilliant day with glittering snow-crystals on the wintry landscape. The plain to the west seemed to be endless.