

All the arrangements worked smoothly throughout. Our march on August 21 led us first through continuous forest to the junction of the Satil-gāh stream with a somewhat smaller tributary descending the valley of Pai from the north-east. This we followed upwards through splendid forest, here wholly untouched by the axe, to an elevation well over 10,000 feet. Then a long climb northward over steep slopes of rock and debris brought us to the top of the Sheobat pass (Fig. 31), a little over 15,000 feet in height and on the watershed range between the Indus and Gilgit rivers. It was with regret that I here quitted Pakhtūn Wālī's fascinating dominion, from which we had just 'lifted the Purdah'. I was sorry, too, to bid farewell to our hardy escort of outlaws (Fig. 10) when we met the considerable detachment of levies from Gūpis which had waited on the other side of the pass to take charge of us. The rewards I was able to give to Pakhtūn Wālī's men had been well earned and, I hope, helped to efface any unpleasant impression caused by the ill-disguised signs of distrust with which they were viewed, no doubt for good reasons, by the guardians of peace and order on the Gilgit side.

Crossing the
Sheobat
pass.