

CHAPTER XXV.

TO THE FRONTIER OF BRITISH INDIA.

On *August 7th*, we travelled 11.5 km. N. W., sinking 315 m. or from 4,396 to 4,081 m., being a rate of 1:36. The day was rainy. The road continues down through the valley, now narrow as a gorge between steep rocks of the same dark-green serpentine as before. Now and again the little brook is crossed. After a short distance, the valley turns to the right and becomes broader. The path leaves it and ascends the hills to the left. On the top of this new bit of the platform, we cross an erosion furrow and after a while, stand again at the edge of a deep valley to which we have to descend. Its slope is comparatively steep to the N. E. and north. It is partly very narrow between rocks of solid material. The rocks consist of yellow and red jasper and quartz. From the right a tributary valley joins it, and the joint valley falls to the west and has a little brook from a spring in its bottom. At several places are cairns, *manis* and ruins of old houses. From the south or left, a third valley joins the one we are following; it is deep-cut, wild and winding, and changes our direction to the north and N. N. E. From the road on the edge, the view of this valley is very picturesque. The rainy weather does not allow a distant view, but still one suspects the mighty valley of the *Satlej* to the north. On a lower terrace and slope, the ground is green with barley fields. *Dongbo-gompa* becomes visible. On the sides of the valley, living rock occasionally crops out, the rest being terraces of pebble and shingle modelled in the most picturesque way by rain and erosion. The way down from the edge of the platform is very steep, between hills and small ridges and in ravines and small valleys. According to the aneroids, we descend 180 m. in this short distance, the fall being at a rate of about 1:8. The *Dongbo* River down in the deep valley, was 13 m. broad, had an average depth of 0.3 m., an average velocity of 1 m. and an approximate volume of 4 cub. m. per second. Just below the *gompa* the rock was brownish red jasper.

On *August 8th*, our road goes 8 km. N. W. From our camp at *Dongbo-gompa*, where the height is 4,081 m., we ascend directly to the top of the flat, open country again, at the edge of which we are at 4,437 m. We have thus ascended