

hoping to enter Ladak and Kashmir, for a permission to do which he was writing to the British Resident in Kashmir.

Captain Grombtchevsky's party consisted of seven Cossacks, a munshi who accompanied him to Hunza in the previous year, and one servant. He lived in a small light tent of umbrella-like construction ; Herr Conrad, the naturalist, lived in another ; the Cossacks lived in a very flimsy tent d'abri, with both ends open, which must have been an uncomfortable arrangement when the bitter winds of these high lands were in full force ; and the servants lived in a fourth tent. Such was their little camp. The Cossacks appeared to do all the work ; they scoured the mountain-sides for the ponies in the morning, fed them, and saddled and loaded them for the march ; they formed a guard during the march, and at night Captain Grombtchevsky always had a sentry over his tent. For all this work they appeared to be indifferently equipped. Their wretched apology for a tent has already been described ; their food seemed poor and insufficient, as they lived almost entirely on mutton, and ate even the entrails of the sheep, and seldom had any flour, as there was only ninety pounds in camp for the whole party for three months. The liberality of our Government, indeed, was very apparent on this occasion, for the contrast between the parties was remarkable. The Gurkhas had two snug little tents, with waterproof sheets, and numdahs, and everything that could be done to make them comfortable, and, as I had been given a liberal allowance of money for the expenses of the expedition, my men had as much and even more than they wanted of mutton, flour, rice, tea, and sugar, although we had then been travelling for seventy-one days from the last village where supplies were obtainable, and all we had with us had had to be brought from Chinese territory, where the rulers might have stopped our supplies. But, although the Cossacks did not strike me as being well cared for, they were good, sound, hardy fellows, who looked well able to stand the rough