

of the ridge and down the other, then up again, and so on everlastingly. Even from the summits of the ridges nothing was to be seen ; we were simply swamped in forest, and could not see a yard beyond it. I know of nothing more depressing than this, to struggle on, forcing a way for the mules through the undergrowth, hauling and shoving them up the slopes and rocky gullies, and then tired and exhausted and out of temper to arrive at the top and find ourselves still hedged in by trunks of trees, still unable to see what lay beyond. We were, too, afflicted by a pestering scourge of mosquitoes and midges. In the daytime we had the midges driving us wild with their irritating pricks, and at night the mosquitoes in clouds descended on us. By simply closing the hand a dozen of them could be caught at any time. Of course we had to wear veils the whole day long, and keep our hands in our pockets or wrapped round with cloth ; but even then we suffered badly, washing was a positive torture, and we had to dash through our ablutions and get ourselves under cover again as rapidly as possible. Gad-flies were another form of torture invented for these parts. They