

## CHAPTER II

Serious and light literature—Death of animals—Excursion of Leno—Bad water—Recovery—Weakness—Continuing the journey—Observing under difficulties—Thousands of antelopes—Reconnoitring—Sickness—Barren and waterless country—Economising candles—Another route decided upon—Lazy caravan men—Tame antelope—Death of Pike's pony—"Daily" stream—Fertile valley—Difficulty of finding a ford—Aru Cho—Death of my riding pony—Illness of Sanman—Animals straying—Caravan men suspected—Robbed by Chukpas.

AT the best, fever is disagreeable, and our bleak, exposed position close to a salt lake, in a country almost desert and many miles from any inhabitants, rendered it still more so. I had an ample stock of medicines, but only sufficient knowledge of their use to recognise that I knew very little about the healing art. Pike's medical skill was less than mine, so I had to doctor myself. For the first couple of days I was doubtful as to the malady that had attacked me, but, having carefully consulted that excellent medical work for laymen, "Moore's Family Medicine for India," I diagnosed my case, and having, as I believed, adopted the proper remedies, I was only too glad to do nothing except occasionally to seek relief from the languor of the fever in such light reading as our stores could supply, viz., "Whitaker's Almanac" and a sixpenny encyclopædia. In consequence of exposure to very bad weather some of