

CHAPTER VI

Ramzan sent to Ladak—His excuse for delaying—Pike's love of cold water—Annoying caravan men—Rundor—"Presents" from Pombo—Fresh transport—Names of places—Large glacier—The Nabo La—Mountain sickness—Sanman again disobedient—The last halt—Cold weather—Accident to theodolite—End of surveying—Strange visitor—Rassoula's "konka"—Grass and fuel very scarce—Death of animals—Our scribe Rassoula—Sending for transport and supplies—Shooting ponies—Arrival of men from Lutkum—Wood at last—The waterless camps—Arrival at Lutkum—Return to Leh—The Zoji La in winter—Frozen to death—End of journey.

RAMZAN and his new friends from Rundor informed us that the Pombo had gone to Ladak to purchase barley and other supplies for his own people, and since in his absence there was little probability of the nomads providing us with sufficient transport for the remainder of our journey, we resolved to act independently of them. Fobrang was the nearest village in British territory, and thither we decided to send Ramzan to procure the necessary animals. By much talking and liberal promises he contrived to obtain a guide, but no pony could be bought or borrowed, and I had to give him mine. We had sufficient food for ourselves and the caravan men, but the barley was almost used up, and Ramzan was instructed to arrange for a fresh supply, as well as for chopped straw for the animals. His orders were to hasten, but he was in no hurry to start, and in reply