

sometimes their disobedience was provoking. Instructions were given that certain of the animals, being unfit for work, should be exempt from carrying burdens. The orders were clearly understood by the men, and then disregarded. To the worst offender, callous to the sufferings of the mules, I administered two blows with a stick which disconcerted him so much that he lay down on the ground and howled that I had killed him. The lusty voice in which he bewailed his punishment showed that he had received no injury, but ridiculous as his behaviour was, the necessity of enforcing compliance with orders by such means was exceedingly disagreeable.

The two Rundor men whom Ramzan had introduced into our camp were accompanied by two large and ugly dogs. One of them very soon showed a great antipathy to strangers, but as he kept at a respectful distance from me, I thought little about him. As he became more accustomed to our presence he seemed to lay aside his enmity, and when we reached the Churti watershed he appeared quite friendly. But his friendship was feigned, for, observing me defenceless, engaged in the needful work of collecting dung for fuel, he took advantage of the opportunity and seized me by the calf. My position was distinctly disagreeable, but, at length, the brute loosened his hold and I was able to reach my rifle. By that time, however, he was in full retreat and presented such a small and rapidly-moving target that the bullets did him no harm.

Rundor, we found was nothing more than an encampment of nomads. Our guides had led us to believe that it was a very large one, but though, as regards area, it was large, embracing the valley running east and south of Nabo La, the tents, so far as we could see, were few and the population small. No doubt the numerous side valleys which afford shelter and grazing for cattle, and