

of us. As the motive of these orders they alleged the war with Nepal, and the fear of their Government that they might be called upon to answer for anything we suffered at the hand of robbers.

We sent one of our men to Daba, soliciting the Tibetan chief to come and hold parley with us ; but he despatched his chief secretary on the following day to persuade us he was absent. We were constrained to acknowledge to ourselves that it was impossible to penetrate as far as Mansarawr ; but we might make an attempt to reach Gartok in the upper valley of the Indus. After a prolonged negotiation, assisted by gifts of rupees and brandy, we obtained permission to push forward to the Sutlej, signing a treaty which limited us to a three days' sojourn on the banks of that river, and imposed a fine of 600 rupees (£52) in case we transgressed this limit.

Consequently, we resumed our march, and reached the Sutlej, near its junction with the Gyonngoul.

We remained there two days, occupied with astronomical and other scientific observations, when the Bara-Mani rejoined us, and offered his protection.

He was the richest man in Milum, and enjoyed great influence. The chief of Daba was his friend, and owed him some thousands of rupees. By dint of threats and prayers, he obtained permission for us to proceed as far as the pass of Chaco-La, which lies in that part of the chain dividing the Sutlej from the Indus. Our guards grew hourly more docile, and a few Chinese articles which we bought from them at extravagant prices, completed their good opinion of us. Permission was given us to remain five or six days at Chaco-La, the two Manis becoming guarantees for our obedience, and engaging to pay a heavy penalty in case of contravention. We were accompanied by two men only, the others preferring to remain at the foot of the mountain. On the 26th we arrived at the pass of Chaco-La, and hastened to pitch our camp.

On the morning of the 27th we resumed our march. A great number of natives were crossing the col with their flocks of sheep. To prevent any suspicions being aroused, we had left behind our tent, baggage, and one of our servants. Two horses carried our theodolite, the hypsometrical apparatus, and a supply of provisions.

We informed the passers-by that it was only our intention to ascend a neighbouring mountain to study the compass.

Having traversed the col, we plunged into a lateral valley ; but what was our surprise to behold, at the bottom of it, a hundred Houniahs armed to the teeth ! Our people were terrified ; they declared that these men had been despatched by the chief of Gartok to make us prisoners. We took refuge in a cavern, and sent one of our servants to reconnoitre. The Houniahs discovered and surrounded him. By means of our glass we could see that an extraordinary scene of agitation was being enacted beneath us ; one seized his horse, another took away his gun. Fortunately, after a short detention, he was released, having found among these men an old friend, who extricated him from his difficulty.

In the evening we descended into another little valley, situated at the limit of the shrubby vegetation. The night was unfavourable. Deprived of our tent, and with no protection against the cold but a few coverlets, we threw ourselves down as