

dry. We had encamped at the spot where the brook of Japkaklik disappears amongst the gravel. Next morning it was partly frozen over, and it also reached farther down the glen. After continuing down the glen along the rounded slopes on its right bank, we turned to the south up Musluk-saj, doubling a butte of moderate size. In fact Musluk-saj, with which the Japkaklik-saj unites, is the larger glen of the two. The reason the united glen bears the name of the latter is no doubt because it is traversed by a perennial stream, while the Musluk-saj was at the time of our visit dry. The conjoint glen, which picks up subsidiary glens from both sides, runs towards the north-east. On the east of it rises the bluff of Tamtschi; its lake was not however visible from our route. Beyond Tamtschi,



Fig. 45. VIEW OF TSCHIMEN-TAGH FROM THE PASS OF JULY 17TH.

on the east, is said to be Puj, so that it will be the next big saj, a word which in this part of the country is employed to signify a transverse glen. We were steadily inclining towards the south-west. On our right we passed Kumluk-tschap, a head valley of the Musluk-saj. It was up one of these side-glens that we directed our steps, and eventually the ascent grew distinctly perceptible. That district is known as Kartschugha. The first pass we came to might easily be mistaken for the principal pass, but we soon ascertained that all the watercourses were still directed towards the north, as for instance Kalam-ottok. Shortly afterwards we approached another large pass. This time there could be no mistake about it: it was the principal pass (4269 m.) of the Tschimen-tagh, for to the south it commanded a magnificent panorama of the entire range of the Ara-tagh, stretching from east to west in one long snow-clad crest. But true snowy peaks, distinct and individual, were only visible to the south-west and south; to the south-east, on the other hand, the mountains were more rounded, though all alike snow-clad, so that the entire range produced an impressive effect. But the snow is perpetual on only a few of the peaks in the south-west; most of what we saw fell in the last snow-storm, and in the afternoon it began to disappear on the flanks exposed to the sun.