

CHAPTER II.

EXCURSION TO EASTERN PAMIR, SUMMER 1894.

We now come to my second journey in *Eastern Pamir* during the summer of 1894. In my narrative, *Through Asia*, Vol. I, p. 258 *et seq.*, I have given a short description of this road from a picturesque and personal point of view. It here only remains to enter into a more detailed geographical description. On the other hand I have already, in the book just quoted, dealt at some length with the glaciers of the *Mus-tagh-ata* and will not return to them in this connection, especially as they have nothing to do with the object of these chapters which only describe roads that may have been taken by Chinese pilgrims.

The journey began in the evening of June 21st along the great caravan road to *Yangi-shahr*, after which we continued to *Gakchi* and *Boti*, villages belonging to *Tasgun*. By *Topagla*, *Ak-mesjid*, *Jigde-arik* and *Kolagli* we reached *Usun-sakal*, the last village of *Tasgun*, after which the *Tasgun-daryasi* is crossed on a bridge. Here is the boundary between the districts of *Tasgun* and *Yapchan*. To the latter belongs the river of *Khan-arik*, also called *Yupurga*. Through *Yapchan* flows a brook called *Yapchan-östäng*, which is said to be fed by springs. At *Yapchan* the altitude is 1,390 m.

Our next march followed the great caravan road by *Besh-kent*, a district of some 20 villages; the brook *Besh-kentning-östäng* is crossed on a bridge. Then follow *Tongluk* and *Mamuk*. At *Soghuluk* the altitude is 1,349 m., and at *Yangi-hisar* 1,380 m. Between the two last-mentioned places the following villages are situated: *Khaneka*, *Seïdlar* (or *Seïdlik*), *Östäng-boi* with a brook, and *Chaka*.

The distance from *Yangi-hisar* to *Igis-yar*, which we accomplished during the night of June 25th, is 31 km. Here the highroad to *Yarkand* is left to the east and we continue on rising ground to *Igis-yar*. The latter place has an altitude of 1,736 m. or 356 m. above *Yangi-hisar*. The rate of ascent is therefore as 1:87.

Half an hour south of *Yangi-hisar* the *Mangshin-östäng* is crossed, carrying some 8 cub. m. of muddy water per second. On the brook *Sagan-östäng* is the