

CHAPTER X.

AMONG THE GLACIERS.

"To reside
In thrilling regions of thick-ribbed ice."

MEASURE FOR MEASURE.

THERE was no need to hurry my departure from Shahidula, for it was necessary to wait till the Yarkand River, down the valley of which we should have to march for several days, should have fallen, as the summer floods from the melting of the snows decreased. The region which was now to be explored was entirely uninhabited, and without roads, tracks, bridges, or any of the usual means of communication. I had had a sample of it on my journey across the Mustagh Pass, and I knew that we should have to work along the beds of rivers and bottoms of deep, precipitous-sided valleys, and clamber over ranges by any sort of opening which could be dignified by the name of a pass. The first sixty-five miles had been explored by Hayward, and I had myself, in 1887, traversed another ninety miles, but otherwise the region from Shahidula to the Tagh-dum-bash Pamir and Hunza was perfectly unknown; and how the rivers and ranges ran, and where this Shimshal Pass was situated by which the Kanjuti raiders issued from Hunza, were all matters for conjecture.

There were two things which I desired especially to do. I wished to discover this Shimshal Pass, and see how the