come on to me for assistance. He travelled up to Kashgar
with astonishing rapidity, and wanted, after getting information
and assistance from me, to start off back again the next day
to tackle the Mustagh Pass once more. He was exactly like
a bulldog—you could not get him off this pass. He had come
out to get over, and it was hours before I could convince him
that it was impossible to do so before September. But he had
already had experience of the depth and rapidity of the rivers
on the way to it, and he gradually saw that it was out of the
question. I then asked him for an account of his adventures
on the way to Kashgar. It appeared that he had been given
two months' leave from his regiment. He had no time to get
a proper map of the route he would have to follow; but he
pushed on as hard as he could through Kashmir and Ladak
towards the Karakoram Pass, from which point he imagined
that he would merely have to "turn to the left" and he would
see a long distinct range of snow-mountains, with a gap in them,
which would be the Mustagh Pass. He had little idea of the
pathless labyrinth of mountain that actually shut in this remote
pass! Crossing his first pass between Kashmir and Ladak, he
became snow-blind, and had to be carried across on a bed. At
his second—beyond Leh—the Ladakis whom he had engaged
struck work, and said the pass would not be open for ponies
for weeks yet. But Davison, by measures more severe than
diplomatic, managed to get both them and his ponies over. Then
came the Karakoram Pass; and the only way to traverse this in
the month of May, when the snow on it was all soft and yielding,
was by tediously laying down felts and blankets in front of the
ponies for them to walk over, picking them up as the ponies
had passed over them, and again laying them down in front—
and so on for mile upon mile. Those who have themselves had
experience of trudging through soft snow at an elevation of
eighteen thousand feet, can best realize what this must have
been to a man who had come straight up from the plains of