India, and who had never been on a snow-mountain in his life
before.   Now came the crisis of the journey.   Davison had no
map to show him the way to the Mustagh Pass, and, still worse,
he had no guide.   He had not been able to find a single man
who had been a yard off the beaten track to Yarkand ; but he
had a rough map which gave him the relative position of the
Mustagh and Karakoram Passes ; so he plotted those two points
on a piece of paper, and then started a prismatic compass
survey, which in future he plotted out regularly on the same
piece of paper, and by these means he hoped to be able to make
out his way to the goal he had before him.   With this intention,
he followed down the stream which flows from the Karakoram
Pass past Aktagh.   But the further he advanced the more
rugged and impracticable became the mountains which bounded
in the valley in the direction of the Mustagh Pass.   He could
see nothing of that great snowy range which he had expected
to find standing up conspicuous and distinct from all the rest,
and with the Mustagh Pass forming a landmark which he could
make out from any distance, and steer for without difficulty.
Instead of this, he found himself shut in by rocky precipitous
mountains, which forbade him following any other route but
that which led down the valley he was in.   He had lost three
ponies on the Karakoram Pass.   Two of his men now deserted
with most of his supplies.   But Davison still pushed on, in spite
of the danger of doing so with his scanty stock of food, till—
very fortunately for him—he was pulled up on account of the
stream having increased so much in depth that it had become
unfordable.   This was at Khoja Mohammed gorge, about two
marches below Chiragh Saldi.   Davison tried to swim the river
with a rope tied round his waist, but the stream was too strong
for him.   Finding it impossible to get down the valley at the
time of year when the snows were melting and the rivers in
flood, he reluctantly retraced his steps for a short distance and
then turned north, crossed a pass (the Kokalang, if I remember