

CHAPTER XII

Magnificent scenery—Wellby's peaks—Strong winds—Returning—Work near Baba Hatun—Return to Aksu—Arrival of Raju with supplies—Checking previous work—Dalbir Rai sick—Ulugh Kul—Sources of Khotan River—Fine yak—Camp 116—Accident to ponies—Finishing surveying—The Polu gorge—Punishing theft—Vile track—Welcome presents—Return to Polu—Dinner to headmen—Dalbir Rai threatens to murder me—Abdul Karim saves bloodshed—Bad weather—Return to Yarkand—Dilatory post.

FROM the hill stations near Camp 110 we commanded a view of scenery which, for extent and grandeur, was unsurpassed anywhere. We were surrounded by mountains, low on the horizon from the north-east to the south-east, but elsewhere lofty and white with snow. The peaks which, with a gap here and there, formed our horizon on three sides, were visible to great distances. In clear weather we could plainly discern mountains to the south of Mangtza Cho, about ninety miles distant, and several times we clearly saw the prominent mountain with the double peak, 23,490 feet high in $35^{\circ} 19' 30''$ north latitude, and $80^{\circ} 58'$ east longitude.

On the map illustrating the late Captain Wellby's adventurous and successful journey across Tibet, a prominent peak is placed a little to the south of an extensive snow-clad range running almost due east and west. For this range I made careful search from three hill stations near