

on the history of Kashmir as recorded in its old Sanskrit Chronicle. Still longer periods I have passed in later years while encamped on a high mountain top 11,000 feet above the sea, hard at work on the results of the explorations which had carried me to far more distant parts in the north. This life for many years in peaceful alpine seclusion has made me look upon my tents in Kashmir as my only real home.

It was a consequence quite as much of the geographical position of Kashmir as of my attachment to this mountain land that it served as the starting-point for all my Central-Asian expeditions. Of course, I took care to choose on each occasion a new route through those high ranges of the Hindukush, the westernmost portion of the Himalayas, which divide the valley of the Indus from the Pamirs and the south-western confines of Chinese Turkistan. On all three journeys my passage through that westernmost portion of the Himalaya, so barren and yet so attractive in its grandeur, has left behind most impressive memories.

On the first expedition in 1900 my route from Kashmir to Chinese territory lay through Gilgit and Hunza, the latter a mountain tract offering the grandest scenery (Fig. 10). Since a good mule track was engineered in the late eighties to Gilgit for the sake of maintaining there a small garrison of Imperial Service troops, and since the hill chiefships of Hunza and Nagar were by 1891 brought under effective British control, those valleys have become fairly well known. For the third journey in 1913 I was able to follow a line of approach which allowed me to visit as the first European two hill territories, Darel and Tangir, never explored before, and then to gain the Taghdum-bash Pamir on the Chinese