

## CHAPTER XIX

### FROM KASHGAR TO THE ALICHUR PAMIR

THE hot weeks of June 1915 which followed my arrival at Kashgar saw me kept hard at work at the safe repacking of my collection of antiques, filling 182 heavy cases, for its long journey across the Kara-koram to Kashmir, and at a host of other practical tasks. They were lightened by the kind hospitality afforded to me at my old base by Colonel (since Brigadier General) Sir Percy Sykes, who had temporarily replaced Sir George Macartney as H.B.M.'s Consul General. Though a shooting trip to the Pamirs soon deprived me of the congenial company of this distinguished officer of the Indian Political Department and his sister, Miss Ella Sykes, the gifted writer and traveller, I continued to benefit greatly by all the comfort and aid which I derived from the arrangements kindly made for me at Chini-bagh.

But what helped most to keep my spirits buoyant was the prospect of realizing my long-cherished plan of a journey across the Russian Pamirs and the mountains north of the Oxus. Those great regions of the 'Roof of the World' and of the adjoining extreme east of Iran had ever since my youth had a special fascination for me by reason of their varied geographical interest and their ethnic and historical