



MUZTAGH-ATA PEAKS SEEN FROM ABOVE YAMBULAK VALLEY.

CHAPTER VI

ON MUZTAGH-ATA

THE 14th of July brought no change in the weather, and was by necessity a day of repose. I used it to collect information as to my intended excursion up the western slopes of Muztagh-Ata and to pay off the Sarikolis who had so far supplied my transport. Previously, however, I took the opportunity of effecting anthropometric measurements on them. After Shams Beg, the Yüz-bashi ("Head of a Hundred"), who had escorted me from Tashkurghan, had set the example, they readily submitted to the various operations, each victim in turn affording amusement to his companions.

In the afternoon the rain grew less, and I rode out with Karm Shah Beg to pay a short visit to the Little Kara-kul and the neighbouring tarns of Basik-kul. The detailed descriptions of Dr. Sven Hedin, who studied these little lakes for weeks and with loving interest, have made the readers of his work fully familiar with all aspects of the neighbourhood. Riding round the West shore of Karakul I had a full view of the grand moraine which borders the lower edge of the lake and