

clouds from its highest peaks. Those above the glaciers of Kongur-debe and Koxsel rise, according to our triangulation, to elevations of 23,600 and 23,470 feet, respectively, and thus fairly rival Muztagh-Ata, for which 24,321 feet is the latest ascertained height. All the same I was glad to learn from the Kashgar pony-men that I should not have to force my way through the gap known as the Kara-tash ("Black stone") Pass, which on the south separates that range from the "Father of Ice Mountains." Instead of this difficult route the Gez gorge was reported to be available, though in the flooded condition of the Yamanyar River I had scarcely ventured to hope for this.