



Fig. 1. A SAND-DUNE EAST OF TEREM.

CHAPTER I.

FROM KASCHGAR TO THE JARKENT-DARJA.

The road which I traversed on 5—10th September 1899 between Kaschgar and Lajlik was already known to me in great part* from my journey of 1895. But as it is shown on the atlas which accompanies this work, I may say a few words about it, especially as I have some new observations to add. These may be regarded as a sort of text to the first plate of the atlas.

I began my cartographical work immediately I got outside the Kum-därvase gate of Kaschgar. Thence we proceeded along the well-known road southwards, over the three bridges which cross the Kisil-su to Jangi-schahr. The river however now carried a very small quantity of water. Here about three o'clock a storm burst upon us which in violence exceeded anything I had conceived possible in the basin of the Tarim. For an hour and a half the rain literally came down in torrents, making the clay soil soft and slippery; while the thunder crashed deafeningly after every vivid flash. Shortly after leaving on the right the northern wall of Jangi-schahr, we found the road for several kilometers completely under water; in fact, the only guide we had as to where the track ran was the string of huts

* From Kaschgar to Kan-arik I travelled over the same route on both occasions.