

CHAPTER XXII.

ON DUNE-FORMATION AND SANDY THRESHOLDS.

I had thus succeeded in crossing the Central Asian desert at one of its broadest parts, the distance being 284.5 km., equivalent to the distance between London and Liverpool, Berlin and Breslau, or Stockholm and Jönköping. Had I struck a line from any point between Tepe-teschdi and Arghan to Tattran the distance would have been about the same; for, if a circle be drawn with Tattran as centre and 285 km. as its radius, its circumference would almost exactly coincide with the arc of the lower Tarim. We struck the Tschertschen-darja 7 km. below Tattran, although it had been my object and my endeavour to steer straight for that village; my failure to achieve this purpose depended partly upon the variation of the compass, and partly upon the deviation of the chain of bajirs from the straight line leading to Tattran. But before attempting speculatively to account for this deviation, in the course of which we travelled first south-west, then south-south-west, then south, and finally even south-south-east, I add a table supplying the actual data upon which I base the following discussion.

Bajir no.	1	ran	S. 32° W.
»	» 2	»	S. 31°.6 W.
»	» 3	»	S. 41°.5 W.
»	» 4	»	S. 41° W.
»	» 5	»	S. 20° W.
»	» 6	»	S. 35°.5 W.
»	» 7	»	S. 37° W.
»	» 8	»	S. 38° W.
»	» 9	»	S. 10°.5 W.
»	» 10	»	S. 31° W.
»	» 11	»	S. 24° W.
»	» 12	»	S. 21°.5 W.
»	» 13	»	S. 12° W.
»	» 14	»	S. 14° W.
»	» 15	»	S. 2°.5 W.
»	» 16	»	S. 27° W.