

throws a good deal of light upon the conception which they have formed regarding the instability of the hydrographical relations of the region in which they live. The preceding pages contain an abundance of instances of old river-beds, alluded to or described — more than sufficient in fact to justify the truth of the phrase in which the natives have embodied the results of their observation. Nevertheless the most pregnant and most striking example of the changeableness of these waterways still remains to be described.



Fig. 446. VIEW FROM THE LOWER PART OF KALMAK-OTTOGHO.

On the 6th May we continued our trip up the Kalmak-ottogho. Immediately above Tikenlik stand certain huts called Tikenlik-dschaji. Then we dragged our canoes over a small recently built dam, and across dry land until we came to the pretty large Säkis-kulatsch-toghi, or Eight Arms-lengths Dam, which was built fifteen years ago for the purpose of diverting the water of the Kalmak-ottogho to the fields of Tikenlik. Above this the waterway alters its appearance entirely: it is like paddling up a very broad river, except that there is no current, or next to none. This waterway, which winds precisely like a river-bed, is inclosed between old and dense forests of magnificent trees, and the higher we ascended the more beautiful as well as the more abundant they became. The banks are in part overgrown with reeds, in part free from vegetation. Here is the deserted village of Üntschüne-uji. In several places we observed traces of old huts, which were inhabited by Lopliks when the river flowed this way. Two deviations or bends which this waterway makes to the south touch not inconsiderable accumulations of sand. Eventually we turned out of this waterway into a narrow canal known as Muhamed Nias-osasidake-arik. It is in part artificially made, and in part it winds through the thick kamisch and jākän, and soon terminates in some small lakes. At the north end of a narrow water-passage stands the village of Bobo Okuru-kadaghan, with the lake of the same name to the south of it. The village embraces 3 ujlik, of in all 17 persons, who spend the winter at Tikenlik. Close to the village are some little hills, commanding an extensive view of the kamisch-fields, marshes, small lakes,