

Dalgleish, Bonvalot and the Prince of Orléans, and Littledale. This historical resumé — not that it really proves much — is omitted from the account of his journey.

»Let us turn», says Kosloff, »to Baron Richthofen's reply. The Kara-koschun-kul is not the historical Lop-nor, says Baron Richthofen, because it contains fresh water, whereas the historical Lop-nor was a salt lake.»

»The Kara-koschun-kul does indeed contain fresh water; but, mark you, only in those parts in which there is an actual current entering from the Tarim—Jarkent-darja. On its outskirts, in the quiet bays, in a word everywhere where the water is stagnant, it is slightly saline, and farther east it is salt, sometimes intensely salt. This is proved by Prschevalskij, by Pjevtsoff, by the Prince of Orléans, and by Sven Hedin himself; and to their testimony I am able to add my own. The greater the distance from the point where the Jarkent-darja enters the Kara-koschun-kul, the salter grows the water, until at last even the camels no longer venture to drink it. The desiccated parts of the lake-bottom are impregnated with salt, and its shores all round are salt for a considerable distance back. All this is in agreement both with the historical facts and with the requirements of theory. Hence, from this point of view, there is nothing to prevent us from regarding the Kara-koschun-kul as the historical Lop-nor.»

This account of the salinity relations of the lake are perfectly correct, as I have already shown when relating the investigations I made on the northern and southern shores of the Kara-koschun. But when Kosloff maintains that the Kara-koschun is the Lop-nor which the Chinese formerly called *the Salt Lake*, on the ground that it possesses the requisite salinity, then I say at once, that that is an erroneous view. Seeing what the Kara-koschun is like now, no Chinese, let alone any other person, would entertain such a mad idea as to call it a *salt lake*, for it is just those parts of the lake which are inaccessible and are never visited that happen to be salt. The route to Sa-tscheo runs, I grant, along the southern shore, where the water is indeed salt; but even there you have only to send, as I did, one or two Lopliks on foot into the lake with buckets to get perfectly fresh water. In case of need too it is possible to drink the water along the shore. Any way, as compared with other salt lakes in Central Asia, the Kara-koschun deserves rather to be called a freshwater lake. It is also significant, that the first European who visited the lake calls it a freshwater lake. It is little likely therefore that the Chinese have ever called the Kara-koschun a salt lake.

»On the Chinese map, and in the Chinese essay *Si-yü-schuei-tao-ki*, Lop-nor is placed a full degree north of the Kara-koschun-kul. Very good; but it is an error, and here are the reasons why it is so.»

»The geographical coordinates for Ajrilghan near the confluence of the Kontsche-darja with the Tarim were determined by the same Jesuits, Hallerstein and d'Espinha, who also determined the positions of Korla and Kara-schahr. According to their observation, Ajrilghan lies in $40^{\circ} 2' N.$ lat. and $87^{\circ} 23' E.$ long. (from Greenwich) — according to M. V. Pjevtsoff in $40^{\circ} 8'.7 N.$ lat. and $88^{\circ} 20' E.$ long. — that is to say only $6'.7$ farther south than it actually lies, which undoubtedly speaks well for the accuracy of both the Jesuits' and Pjevtsoff's Ajrilghan. In other words, the confluence of the Kontsche-darja and the Tarim lay, even at the time when the Jesuits fixed its position, a good deal farther south than the position in which the