

## CHAPTER XXII.

### ANALYSIS OF AUTHOR'S SURVEY OF THE DESERT.

In Chapter XVI I have given a brief description of the general character of the Desert of Lop from the point of view of its physical geography, and in Chapter XVII a general account of the manner in which, and the circumstances under which, my survey of that desert was carried out, from the northern shore of the ancient Lop-nor at Lâu-lan to the eastern part of the northern shore of the Kara-koschun. In order not to lose the chronological sequence of the various phases of the Lop-nor problem, I have interpolated an account of the historical aspects of the question, together with a critical examination of some Chinese maps. I must now submit my survey-line to a closer analysis.

In the following table I have recorded all the readings I made, both backwards and forwards, the differences between the several pairs of readings, the altitude of each of the 346 stations in relation both to the point of departure and to the level of the Kara-koschun, the distances between the staff and the telescope and between the telescope and the staff, the bearings of each successive section of the traverse, and finally the situation of the seven camps at the end of each day that we were engaged upon the work.

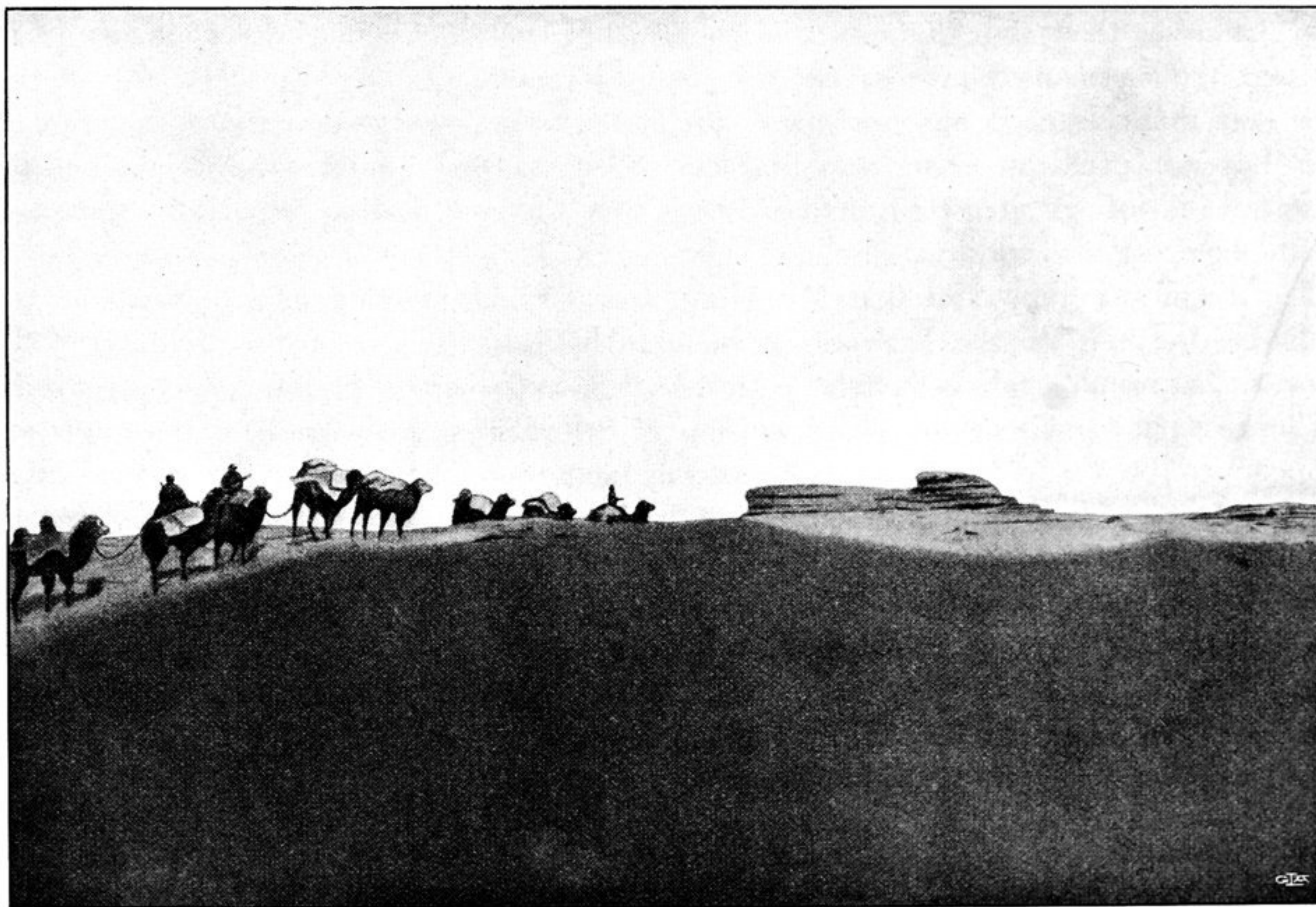


Fig. 156. A SOLITARY JARDANG IN THE SAND.