

D a y.	Distance travelled in m.	Rise in m.	Fall in m.	Difference in m.
10 March to Camp CLX	9,140	+ 17.217	— 17.414	— 0.197
12 March to Camp CLXI	11,201	+ 24.883	— 27.349	— 2.466
13 March to Camp CLXII	13,007	+ 23.306	— 20.543	+ 2.763
14 March to Camp CLXIII	11,250	+ 3.588	— 2.944	+ 0.644
15 March to Camp CLXIV	16,239	+ 8.668	— 8.972	— 0.304
16 March to Camp CLXV	16,271	+ 7.915	— 10.087	— 2.172
17 March to Camp CLXVI	4,794	+ 3.872	— 4.422	— 0.550

I have already said that I tested my instrument at Altmisch-bulak, and that a measured circle of 2756 m. gave a result of + 0.001 instead of ± 0.000 . As it was impossible to determine the source of this error, whether it was due to the instrument, to the management of the staff, or to the taking of the readings, I have not used it as a corrective of the figures in the above table; but even if it were an instrumental error, it is so insignificant that it neither affects the contourline, nor the result and object of the survey, which was to prove or disprove the presence of a depression in the northern part of the desert.

I am perfectly well aware, that a survey such as this, that is not controlled in any way either by fixed points determined beforehand or by a return to the point of departure, whereby one might distribute over the entire distance any error there might be — I am well aware that such a survey does not possess full scientific value. But as a rigidly scientific survey would have demanded not only more men, camels, and provisions than I possessed, but also time which I could not spare, the results I have obtained must pass for what they are worth until we are somehow possessed of better; and I will venture to express the hope, that if I am not myself permitted to carry out a more perfect survey, I may at least direct somebody else to do it on my behalf, that is to say a complete survey of the Desert of Lop, coupled at the same time with a fresh examination of the changes which are now taking place, and will take place in the immediate future, in the distribution of the water there.

Meanwhile, with the view of counterbalancing to some extent the weaknesses inherent in a single line of traverse, every possible care and precaution were taken, as I have already observed, and I place the fullest confidence in the accuracy of my survey, partly because of the pains taken, partly because of the experience I had already had at home in similar work, and partly, and this especially, because of the movements which we ourselves saw were taking place in the Kara-koschun. If therefore it should occur to any one to object, that the value 2.282 m., as the difference of altitude between the point of departure and the Kara-koschun, is probably too little, since it may be assumed that the staff at each turn sank in a trifle, and that this after 344 turns would amount to a considerable figure, I would reply, first, that the staff was handled with the utmost care, and, secondly, that if there is any error, it should run in the opposite direction, that is to say, the value 2.282 m. is rather too high, and the difference of elevation between the point of departure and the end of the traverse is more likely less than 2.282 m. than greater. And for this no other proof is required beyond the simple fact, that a few kilometers west of our