

On the whole we find that the contour-lines run with tolerable regularity, so that each separate curve reproduces on a diminished scale the typical outline of the Tarim basin. The entire basin suggests therefore the outside of an oyster-shell, with its concentric rings, and here again the country of Lop is the umbo or hinge; the only difference is that, whereas the basin is concave, the shell is convex. In the immediate neighbourhood of the depression of Lop the curves run somewhat irregularly in consequence of the extraordinary levelness of the region. The data we possess for the north-western part of the basin, between the Tauschkan-darja and the Kaschgar-darja, are all too few to admit of anything more than a conjectural (dotted) indication of their positions.



Fig. 246. A »KÖL» IN THE BED OF LOWER JANGI-DARJA (CHOTAN-DARJA) MAY 27, 1895.

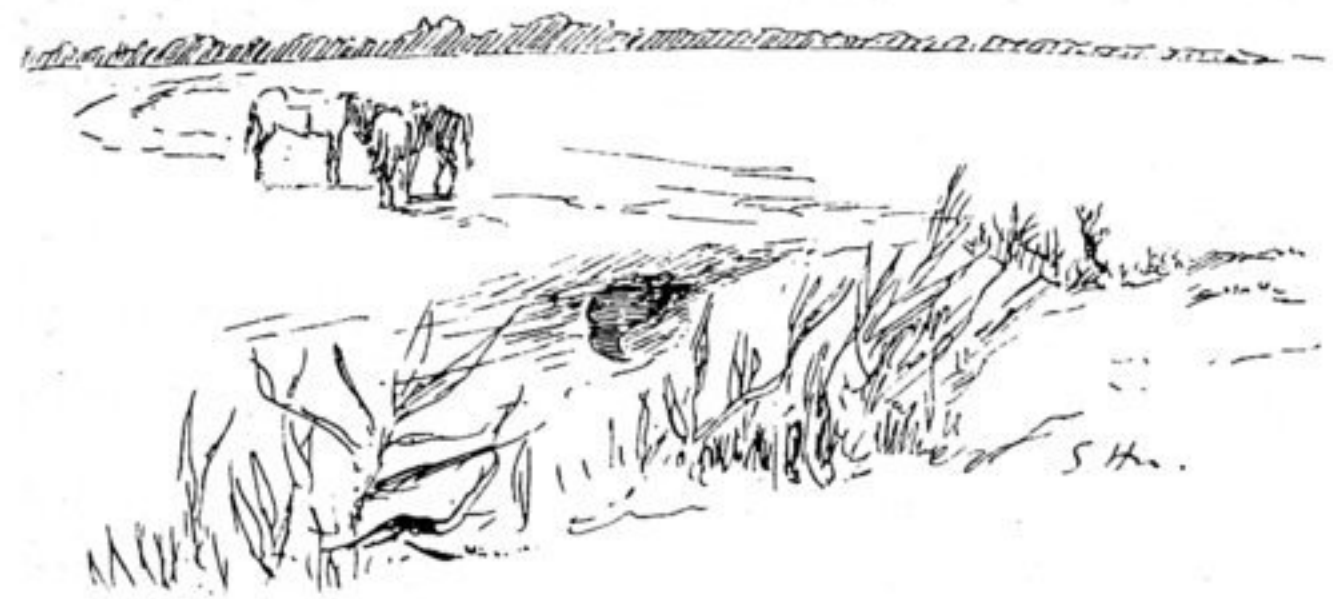


Fig. 247. A WATER-POOL IN THE DRY BED OF THE CHOTAN-DARJA, END OF MAY 1895.

The contours are drawn at intervals of 20 m.; the contours which designate the centuries, that is to say every fifth line, are printed in heavier type, so as to facilitate the use of the map. The materials consist exclusively of hypsometrical observations which I have taken myself in the Tarim basin, and which have been worked out in the way described below \*by Dr. Nils Ekholm. As I have not personally visited the northern parts of the country, from Maral-baschi to Ak-su and further *via* Kutschar to Korla, that part of the map falls somewhat short in accuracy. The same remark applies to the regions between Ak-su and Kaschgar *via* Utsch-Turfan and the Tauschkan-darja. Not that I have not visited that part of the country, but when I did visit it, I possessed no hypsometrical instruments, having lost them in my journey across the desert in 1895. Dr H. Keidel, who has recently visited

this region, will be able to furnish us with very good observations of every kind. Nor have I been able to make use of hypsometrical data gathered by other travellers. The map of the Russian General Staff gives, for example, an altitude of 1006 m. for Ak-su, and this datum was adopted and used by Dr. Hassenstein in my large map in *Petermanns Mitteilungen*. But according to my observations the altitude at the mouth of the Ak-su-darja is 1031 m.,\* and consequently on our little contour-map the Ak-su-darja is given an altitude of 1130 m. For Ak-su Pjevtssoff gives an altitude of 1036 m., while Kuropatkin puts it at 1067 m.; this last is in any case the best and most reliable observation. Although Littledale travelled along the whole

\* On the map, »Tibet and the Surrounding Regions», this point, the Tarim Ferry, is put at 945 m.