

meter or 1 meter in every 1649 meters. If now we compare the three lines radiating from the same point which we have already considered above, we obtain the following result: — between Jarkent (1272 m.) and the mouth of the Chotan-darja (1025 m.) the distance is 420 km. and the difference of elevation 247 m., giving a fall of 0.589 m. in every kilometer or 1 meter in every 1700 meters; between Chotan (1406 m.) and the mouth of the Chotan-darja (1025 m.) the distance is 410 km., and the difference of elevation 381 m., giving a fall of 0.929 m. in every kilometer or 1 meter in every 1076 m. It is however impossible to obtain a fully comparative measurement of the corresponding relations in the case of the Ak-su-darja, for, as I have already said, the altitude of Ak-su is uncertain. Suppose we take it at 1130 m., as shown on our little general map, and the mouth of the Ak-su-darja at 1031 m., then the difference of altitude in a distance of 110 km., measured in a straight line, amounts to 99 m., or 0.900 m. of fall in every 1 km., or 1 m. in every 1111 meters of length. That I have chosen the towns for my starting-point may appear arbitrary, but I have chosen them because they always stand on the transitional line between the mountains and the lowlands, and consequently are in that respect comparable. But even if, with the mouth of the Chotan-darja as centre, and any radius you please, say, for example, the distance to Lajlik, we draw a circle, it will be found that its circumference cuts the Kaschgar-darja at a point that is about 12 m. higher than Lajlik, and the Chotan-darja at a point nearly 130 m. higher; for while the altitude of Lajlik is 1173 m., the circumference of the circle cuts the Chotan-darja just at the point where the 1300 m. contour falls. And if we repeat the experiment from each of the three towns in turn, the result is in every case precisely that which I have set forth above.

One or two further examples of the same thing may be quoted. Kerija lies at an altitude of 1444 m. and the point at which the river once entered the Tarim — assuming that this river ran to some extent parallel with the Chotan-darja — namely in the district of Tschimen, lies at an altitude of 962 m. The difference in altitude is thus 482 m. in a distance of 480 m., or 1.004 m. in 1 km. or 1 meter in every 996 meters. Between Nija (1425 m.) and the Tarim at Kade-dung (942 m.) the distance is 448 km. and the difference of elevation 483 m., or 1.077 m. in 1 km. or 1 m. in every 927 m. Andere lies at an elevation of 1358 m. and Busrugvar, or the point where the Bostan-toghrak may be supposed to have reached the Tarim, at 916 m. altitude. The difference of elevation between the two points thus amounts to 442 m., and the distance in a straight line is 368 km.; consequently there is a fall of 1.201 m. in the kilometer or 1 m. in every 832 meters of length. Tschertschen (1251 m.) lies 360 km. from Kum-tschapghan (817 m.). The difference of altitude is here 434 m., that is 1.206 m. in the kilometer or 1 m. in every 829 m. of lineal measurement. If we proceed yet another step farther east we come to Tscharklik at an altitude of 925 m. and the point where the Tscharklik-su ought to strike the Tarim, at 818 m. Here we have a difference of elevation amounting to 107 m. in a lineal distance of 70 km., that is to say a fall of 1.528 m. in the kilometer or of 1 m. in every 654 m.

It will not be without interest to compare these latter figures one with another. In the Jarkent-darja the fall is 1 m. in 1700 m., in the Chotan-darja 1 m.