

in 1073 m., in the Kerija-darja 1 in 996 m., in the Nija-darja 1 in 927 m., in the Bostan-toghruk 1 in 832 m., in the Tschertschen-darja 1 in 829 m., and in the Tscharklik-su 1 in 654 m. In other words the steepness increases constantly from west to east, a fact necessitated indeed by the shape of the entire basin. Consequently, the contour-lines run, as a glance at our map will show, increasingly closer together the farther we proceed east. This is true however only of the southern part of the basin; for on the northern side, that is alongside the Tarim, the circumstances are entirely the opposite, as we saw indeed along the stretch between Kaschgar and the Kum-tschapghan, where the distance between the 20 meter contour-lines increases towards the east. In consequence of this, the fall of the Kontsche-darja is approximately the same as that of the Tarim from the mouth of the Chotan-darja to Kum-tschapghan. Korla lies at an altitude of 949 m. and Kum-tschapghan at 817 m., so that the difference of altitude amounts to 132 m. over a distance of 455 km., indicating a fall of 0.290 m. in each kilometer or of 1 m. in every 3447 meters. If we treat the Kuruk-darja in the same way, making use only of the measured altitudes that we possess of its course, namely

Kalta	882 m.
Jing-pen	860 »
Camp of 13 March	850 »
» » 14 »	836 »
» » 19 »	826 »
Noghusun-tu	810 »
Camp of 29 March	808 »

we obtain for a distance of 240 km. a difference of elevation amounting to 74 m., or 0.308 m. in every kilometer or of 1 m. in 3243 m. If however we assume that the depression of Lop was in its time filled with water up to the same level as now, then the Kuruk-darja would terminate at an altitude of 816 m., and the fall would be 0.275 m. in 1 km. or 1 m. in 3636 meters; which is almost precisely the same as in the existing Kontsche-darja.

A comparison between the course of the Tarim from Karaul to Arghan and the contour-lines in the interior of the basin as shown by my determinations of altitude suggests some interesting reflections. When crossing the desert from Jangi-köl to Keng-lajka we found the country rise 258 m. in a distance of 280 km. measured in a straight line, giving a rise of 0.921 m. in 1 km. or of 1 m. in every 1085 m. If on the other hand we follow the meridian of Jangi-köl southwards, the distance works out at 220 km. and the difference of elevation at 109 m., for Dung-aghil lies at 990 m.; consequently the fall here is half a m. per kilometer or 1 m. in every 2000 meters. The peculiarity of this is that the rise is in exactly the opposite direction to what it is some distance farther east, where the fall, as the course of the Tarim shows, is from north to south; and the same thing is true of the old bed of the Etek-tarim.

What I desire however to call attention to is the circumstance that, equally whether one travels along the line through the bajir depressions by which I crossed over the Desert of Tschertschen, or whether one travels along the meridian of Jangi-