



Fig. 252. KERIJA-DARJA AT CAMP. XVII (1896).



Fig. 253. SATMA OF SARIK-KÄSCHME, KERIJA-DARJA, CAMP XVIII.



Fig. 254. KERIJA-DARJA CAMP XX.

it were it not that there exist other circumstances which render it probable that they are correct. One of these circumstances is the creation of the numerous marginal lakes on the right bank of the Tarim in which we found depths of as much as 11 m.; this proves, apart altogether from the use of hypsometrical instruments, that the country immediately south-west of the Tarim actually is lower than the river and its low-lying banks. The south-western extremity of the lagoon of Basch-köl is 18.5 km. from the bank of the Tarim. But just as the Basch-köl itself fills

köl, one crosses over a depression in the northern half of the Desert of Tschertschen situated, as the map shows, at a considerable distance south-west of the right bank of the Tarim. When travelling south-south-west from Jangiköl, we thus descended a little at first, and it was not until we had passed the middle of the desert that we began to make any appreciable ascent toward the Tschertschen-darja. At the point where we left the Tarim, midway along the Tana-baghladi-köl, the absolute altitude was 882 m. Our 18 camping-stations in the desert, counting from that point and proceeding south, had the following altitudes — 884, 883, 888, 869, 880, 889, 883, 907, 906, 935, 983, 1015, 1020, 1051, 1089, 1142, 1141 and 1139 m. The last-mentioned point is Keng-lajka on the Tschertschen-darja; the two points immediately preceding it indicate the slight swelling which prevents the river from cutting its way north through the desert as the Chotan-darja and the Kerija-darja do. The lowest point is our fourth camp of 23rd Dec. 1899, where the altitude amounts to only 869 m. The camp of the 24th Dec. has an altitude of 880 m., and consequently lies at all events lower than our point of departure on the Tarim. It may seem rash to attach so much importance to observations which were taken only twice at each point, namely evening and morning, with aneroids and boiling-point thermometers. Nor should I indeed place such great reliance upon