

looks as if the river were really being invited to take its course through the depression which these contours indicate. Indeed the Tarim has actually taken one step in the direction pointed out, namely in that section of its course in which we drifted entirely through the sandy desert, above Busrugvar. If this section of the river were continued towards the south-east through the depression indicated by the contour-lines that we are considering, it would abandon the whole of its inland delta and would proceed direct to Tschigelik-uj. But before it can do that, the Tarim will have to wash away the masses of sand which bar its path, and indeed this is really only a question of time. However, it is probable, that the Tarim will not continue to press in that direction, but on the contrary will carve out new paths for itself to the lowest depression in the Lop country, namely the old bed of the Lop-nor.



Fig. 258. DUNES WITH SAKSAUL. CAMP XXIX (1896) BETWEEN KERIJA-DARJA AND TARIM.



Fig. 259. A SOLITARY TOGHRAK IN THE DESERT NORTH OF KERIJA-DARJA, CAMP XXVII.

to Pl. 2 to Pl. 11 of my atlas, that is to say sheets of it which are already published. These sheets were constructed by Major H. Byström on the basis of my calculations for velocity, that is to say, my measurements of the river, and his work was finished before the material of my astronomical observations for seventeen stations had been worked out. The consequence is that the distance between Lajlik and Karaul is made too short; the reason being that as a rule I was unable to measure the velo-

Our little hypometrical map, Pl. 58, is also capable of yielding at first hand certain other data of value, such as, for instance, the mean elevation of the entire basin of the Tarim, as well as the mean elevation of different sections of the same; hence I need waste neither time nor space by dwelling upon them. Such figures do not indeed possess *per se* any real value, for the map gives us the approximate elevation of every point of the basin to within 10 m. On the other hand these data would be more interesting were we able to compare them with similar values for the Tsajdam basin; yet as this latter is but little known, and in its interior, central parts is practically not known at all, we are for the present forced to abstain from any such comparison, in the hope that Barrett and Huntington, who left London on 3rd February 1905 for Tsajdam and East Turkestan, will be able to supply us with more abundant material.

There is another question connected with the distance calculations along the rivers which I feel I ought not to pass over, more particularly as it has reference