

again, though diversified by an occasional patch of grass. To the east we perceived a buttress or supporting ridge of the range which we were then approaching. South of it the country was extraordinarily level and open towards the east, while the great valley extended westwards for as far as we were able to see. In this latter direction there must however be a low flat swelling or saddle, the water-divide of the latitudinal valley and the western boundary of the Atschik-köl.

We gradually made our way into the mouth of a trumpet-shaped eroded water-course, dry and flat; though a small spring gushed out on its brink at an altitude of 4548 m. The grazing here, although scanty, was better than in any part of Tibet that we had recently visited.



Fig. 137. A DEAD ORONGO.

We saw hard rock nowhere, though at Camp LXV there were one or two small outcrops of fine-grained conglomerate, sticking up out of the ground.

The weather was bright and fine, with the exception of a short, but violent, storm from the west, accompanied by fine drifting snow.

October 6th. We continued to ascend over moderately hard grass-grown ground between two dry watercourses. The pass appeared to be quite close as well as easy, but we soon learnt that we were separated from it by some as bad ground as it is possible to conceive. The peak C₃, which rose to the north-east of us, stretches away to the south-west and south-south-west in a rounded curve. Its flanks are scored by a great number of deep ravines (fig. 138), with perpendicular sides; and it was only by making use of the beds of the small side-torrents that we were able to travel across this peculiar country. The formation is exclusively gravel-and-shingle and deposits of red sand, gravel, and soft earth. At length we struck into a larger water-course that led straight up to the pass; and although it was dry, it contained some scattered sheets of ice. The peak B₃ and the crest of the range to which it belongs