

pass. The quantity of water yielded by these springs was however so unimportant that the rivulet to which they give birth died away and disappeared only 20 m. below the lowest spring.

Nor did we perceive any outcrop of hard rock during the stage covered on the 7th July. All was soft, red sand, or dust, or mud; it was very rarely indeed that we saw any detritus of sandstone or quartzite. But there was grass, generally scanty, though in sheltered positions in greater abundance; in some places however there was no grass at all. Some of the *japkak* was living, fresh and full of sap, some of it dead and withered, and consequently hard; this latter made excellent fuel. There were numerous tracks of the three principal wild animals. The going was particularly good. First we descended slowly towards the lake, then ascended just as gently up again towards the next range. Thus during this stage we crossed over yet another latitudinal valley, in the middle of which lay the little salt lake I have last mentioned.



Fig. 355. CAMP XXXI.

But instead of following the watercourse which runs down to the north-west corner of the lake, we preferred to keep south-east along the eastern shore of the lake, where the ground was more convenient. This necessitated our crossing in the beginning over a whole series of contributory watercourses, which make their way from the range last crossed over down into the principal valley. In two of these we found springs like those at Camp XXXI; but after that we did not discover a single