

eroded watercourses which run down from them towards the south-east do not belong, as I then believed, to the Tschertschen-darja, but to the Kara-muran; this is quite evident from the discoveries made by the French expedition. Camp III was situated at an altitude of 5054 m.



Fig. 410. LOOKING W FROM CAMP V.

On the 10th August we travelled down the little glen in which we had encamped; it terminated in a gently undulating plain. Outside the entrance to this glen, and immediately east of our route, stood a peculiar detached mountain, built up of red sandstone and red clay-slate, the whole capped with a horizontal, rather thick layer of blue-black tuff, full of vesicles, which had subsequently become filled with some white mineral substance. All round the base of the mountain were blocks of tuff which had fallen from the summit; and all the way on after that similar fragments occurred at intervals. Otherwise clay-slate predominated. The capping of tuff has protected the underlying sandstone, so that this mountain is now higher than all its neighbours. The accompanying illustration (fig. 411) will give an idea of its appearance.

On the south side of this mountain there is a large watercourse running towards the north-east; evidently it goes to join the Kara-muran, but was at that moment dry. The flat region we were then travelling along, a high plateau between the Astin-tagh and the Arka-tagh, is dimpled with a number of smaller depressions, some containing water, others without; these latter are generally covered with a layer of white salt. But for considerable distances the country is practically level.



Fig. 411.

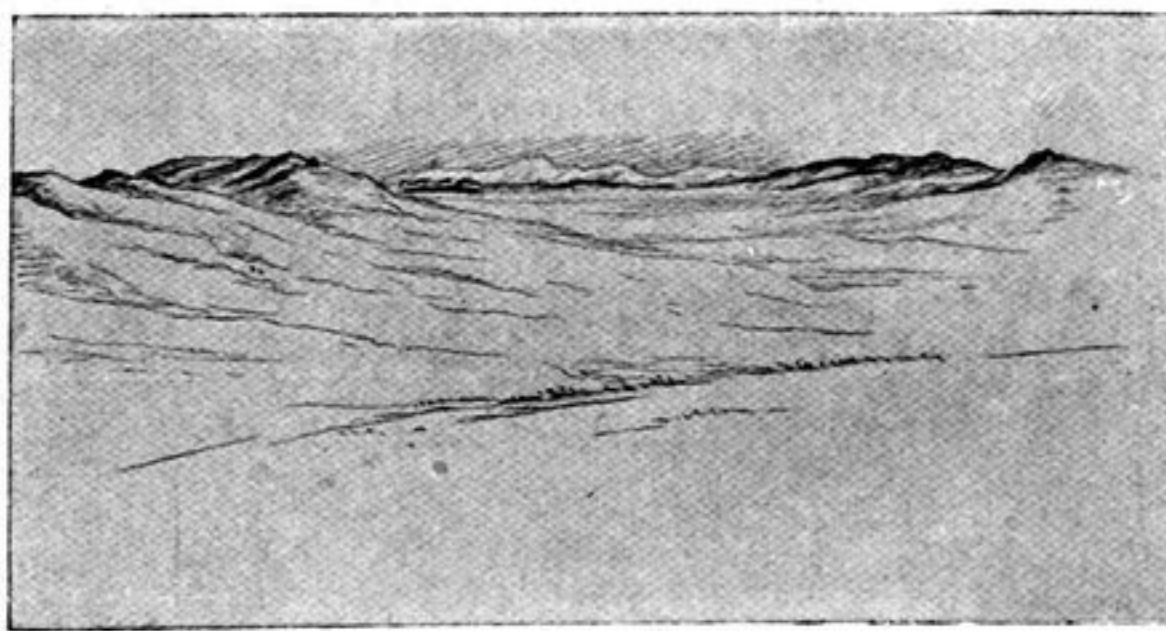


Fig. 412. ARKA-TAGH LOOKING E. AUG. 12.