

The stretches of hills which encircle this high plain are relatively low; I do not think I saw snow or glaciers anywhere. After that on our way south we crossed over three low ridges, all extending from east-north-east to west-south-west and separated from one another by insignificant latitudinal valleys. About 5 km. to the west-south-west we perceived a not inconsiderable lake. Grazing was rare and scanty, and only once did we pass a spring. It is the presence of springs that determines the site of encampments. Camp IV had an altitude of 4988 m.



Fig. 413. LOOKING E FROM CAMP V.

On 12th August we inclined more and more towards the east, and climbed over a spur of the mountains by means of a pass 5060 m. high. There we found red, close-grained limestone, and this rock continued to predominate during the rest of the day. Over on the southern side of the pass we descended into a larger main glen, which comes down from the west-south-west and proceeds east. This is bordered on the north by the crest which we had just climbed over, and on the south is likewise bounded by low hills. It afforded us an extensive view towards the east, as



Fig. 414. LOOKING N FROM CAMP VI.

far as the snowy mass of the Arka-tagh in the far distance. This glen also, which at that time carried no water, belongs no doubt to the system of the Kara-muran. From the south it is joined by several side-glens; one of them, 130 m. broad at its entrance, possessed a tiny brook. Its shape suggested plainly, that sometimes this little torrent must swell to a big stream. The water which descends by it is thaw-water from the adjacent main range of the Arka-tagh. After that as we marched along the slopes of the mountains on the southern side of the glen we had an ex-