

for we had lost the greater part of our horses and camels in this inhospitable country, in which the grazing was so wretchedly thin. Our Camp XXX on the shore of this lake stood at an altitude of 4555 m., and that too was the altitude of the lake. This was the biggest lake we had seen in the latitudinal valley, and like the valley it stretches from west-north-west to east-south-east. Its water was intensely salt, and of a pure dark-blue colour, pointing to a great depth, and this too is rendered probable by the differences of altitude, which are greater in this part of the latitudinal valley than they are in its western parts.

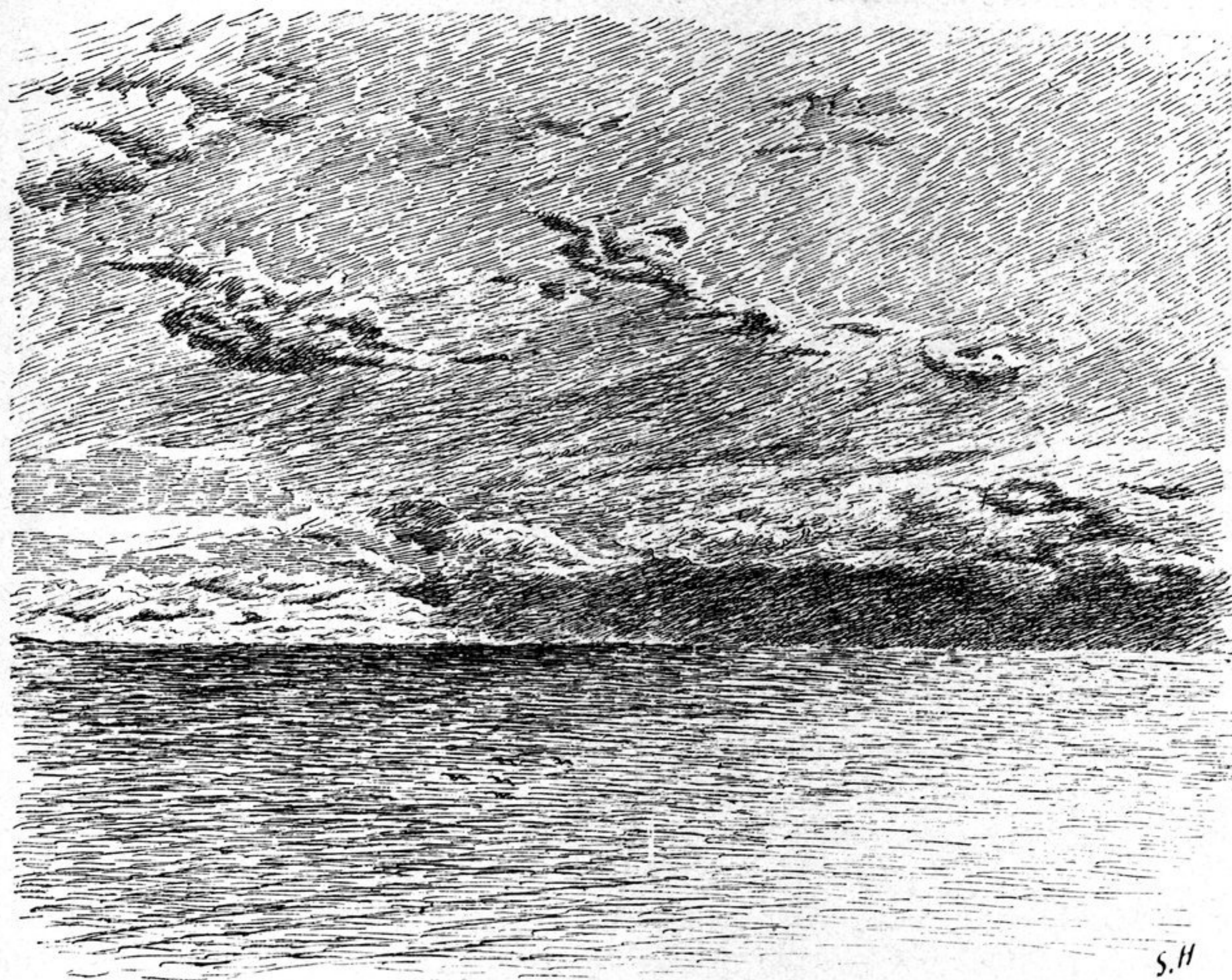


Fig. 444. THE SAME TOWARDS THE ESE.

On September 22nd we travelled along the southern shore of the lake towards the west-north-west. The mountain-chain, which had bordered on the north the river-valley I have just mentioned, came here to an end; the spurs and slopes that reach down from its black craggy crest, almost destitute of snow, to the very edge of the water, thrust each a »toe» as it were into the lake. Between them are eroded glens, deep cut and mostly without water. This made it hard work riding, and put me in mind of the country known as Jäti-tschap at the northern foot of the Kwen-lun. We formed Camp XXXI in the vicinity of a narrow pier-like projection of the shore. Except for this the shore-line is tolerably regular.