

Owing to the cloudy weather and the snowfall of the last two days the temperature had risen: on the night of the 11th—12th Dec. the thermometer only dropped to  $-7.5^{\circ}$ .

On the 13th December the wind again blew hard from the west. We were then travelling towards the north-west, and thus had on our left the cape with the terminal knoll, shown on fig. 247. The cape rises at its highest 3 m. above the level of the Panggong-tso, and at its narrowest part possesses a little lake, about 10 m. in diameter, then frozen. Beside it we observed signs of higher levels, and it cannot be long since the little knoll formed an island close to the shore. In the Panggong-tso, by the way, we did not see a single island. After that the shore continued to be uncomfortable, being steep and stony, and we often had to level

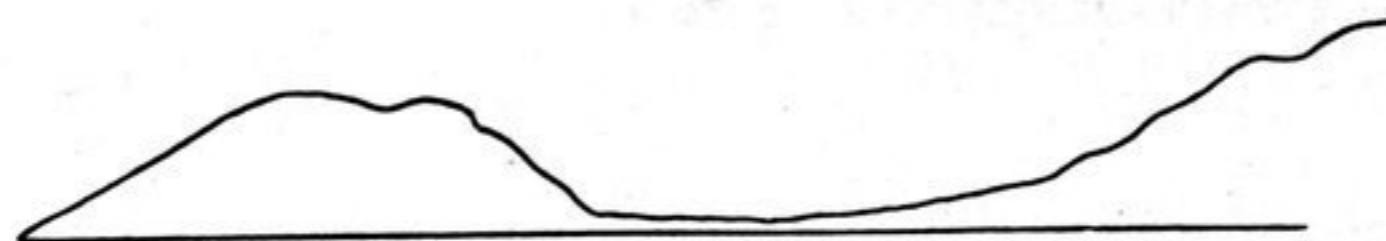


Fig. 247.

it with our spades and roll aside big stones that lay in our way. Next follows a large bay, not penetrating very deeply inland, with a level shore, on which bushes and scrub were growing. On the west it is bordered by a pronounced headland, which forced us to incline south-west, and after that by following the shore we were turned for a pretty considerable distance towards the north, passing a couple of small pointed capes. The shore there is extremely picturesque. The cliffs, consisting of black and green schists, dip  $70^{\circ}$  towards the south; the faces of the rock are often as bright as metal and glittered in the sun. Below the cliffs we had, the whole of the way, the above described terraces of »cemented» gravel-and-shingle, masking their base up to 8 or 10 m. above the lake. Fig. 248 shows one such terrace, and furnishes a proof that these formations are parasitic in their nature, and owe their origin to the saltwater operating amongst the disintegration material, both coarse and fine. Off these terraces the lake always appears to be of considerable depth; at even only a few meters from the shore the water has a dark look. These loosely affixed terrace-formations are not seen higher up; the reason probably is, that they have been destroyed by the atmospheric agencies since the lake dropped sufficiently to expose them.



Fig. 248.

After travelling for a space towards the west-north-west, we approached a peninsula jutting a fairly long way out; but it is so low that we were able to march straight on over it by a lower threshold pass. West of it lies a bay with a level strand, on which japkak scrub was growing luxuriantly. Here, but only on the sheltered side of the scrub and the erosion terraces, a few patches of snow were still lying, left from the last snow-storm. Upon this bay debouches a fairly big glen coming from the east. The brook that courses down it has excavated a channel 3 m. deep with vertical sides; but it is not until it almost reaches the lake that it exhibits these emphatic results of its energetic erosion, for at only a couple of hundred meters higher up the water-course was so shallow that our camels were able to cross over it. The explanation