

sion also; for in those ancient days Lop-Nor was called *the* "Great Salt Lake." No one would think of calling it so to-day, for the greatest expanse of open water is only five or ten miles. As to a somewhat later time, we have the evidence of the earliest Chinese map, which is reproduced on page 285. The exact date of its compilation is not known, but it was certainly after the fall of Lulan, for that place is not indicated; and it was certainly many centuries ago, for the Tarim is represented as still following the course of the Dry River. The Tarim discharges into the northern depression, where it forms what is represented on the map as a relatively small lake, not much larger than that of to-day. The southern depression is occupied by a still smaller lake, called Ghas-Nor, and fed, we suppose, by the Cherchen River.<sup>1</sup> In course of time, the Tarim River left its old bed and occupied one after another of the various channels shown on the map, being deflected continually farther and farther to the right, so that now, for several centuries, it has discharged into the southern depression.

Hedin believes that the cause of the right-handed deflection of the Tarim River is to be found partly in a supposed, but as yet unproved, motion imparted to the water of all rivers by the rotation of the earth, and partly to the unquestionable effect of the prevailing northeast gales in driving the water in erosive waves against the right bank of the river, and in filling up the left side of the channel with wind-blown sand. It seems to me that the peculiar action

<sup>1</sup> Hedin, it should be said, adopts quite a different interpretation, and supposes Ghas-Nor to represent a lake far to the south on the Tibetan plateau.