

of the hills no higher and older strand-line is visible, at least to the naked eye, but its presence is not impossible.

It is beyond doubt that the sharp-edged löss terrace of Turut marks the old limit of a lake. Only a large lake standing sufficiently long at the same level, and with powerful billows, could leave so distinct and decided a mark. Doubtless similar æolian deposits are to be found in other places round the Kevir basin, though they may, to a large extent, be deformed by the change to a cooler and moister climate in the diluvial period, which in northern lands gave rise to the great glaciation.

In his interesting essay, "Archæological and Physico-Geographical Reconnaissance in Turkestan,"<sup>1</sup> R. Pumpelly describes the old strand-lines he investigated at Baku, on the Caspian Sea. The highest attained a height of quite 600 feet above the present level of the sea, while others lay at heights of 500 and 300 feet. We need not connect the highest with the damp climate of the ice age, for, notwithstanding that the Caspian lies 85 feet below the Black Sea, a water-level of 600 feet would involve the flooding of almost the whole of Russia. Moreover, all such comparisons of level are worthless, when we do not know the amount by which mountain ranges, with their old lake shore lines, have been raised or depressed during mountain formation. But if, like Brückner, we content ourselves with allowing to the Caspian Sea in former times an area twice as large as the present, and if, with Huntington, we make the fluvial and lacustrine marks in easternmost Persia and Seistan contemporary with the ice age, we can *à priori* assume that the fall of temperature and increased humidity, which gave rise to the collection of such large volumes of water in the region north of the Kevir and in the country east and south-east of it, must also have had a similar effect on the basin of the Kevir itself. The oscillations between dry and moist climates have succeeded one another over all Western Asia, as is natural. The opposite would be both unnatural and physically unaccountable.

We find the same succession of deposits in the Kevir basin as Huntington observed in Seistan: (1) silt and

<sup>1</sup> *Exploration in Turkestan*, pp. 28 et seq.