

tion in the Kuruk-tagh with peaks he had been able to 'fix' a year before in the course of the survey operations carried along the northern slopes of the K'un-lun. He had spared no efforts and pains for this purpose. But considering the great distance, over 150 miles, which now separated him from that range right across the Lop basin, as well as the time that had elapsed since his previous work there, it was perhaps scarcely surprising that when it came at the Dehra Dun Survey Office to the computation of his theodolite observations his identification of a particular peak sighted only once, and then too in a slight haze, proved erroneous.

Undismayed by the difficulties encountered, Lal Singh had then pushed into the unexplored and absolutely sterile region to the north-east of Altmish-bulak. Fortunately he had secured from Singer the company and assistance of Abdurrahim, that experienced hunter whose help had proved so valuable to us a year before, when I tracked the ancient Chinese route from Lou-lan to Tun-huang. They carried ice to keep their small party supplied with a minimum of water in this utterly arid region. But the fuel brought from Altmish-bulak had given out for several days, and they had to brave the bitter cold of the nights without a fire before Lal Singh decided to turn again westward from beyond the 91st degree of longitude. He then picked up an old desert track which had once been used by hunters of wild camels from Hami, and followed it down to the salt-marsh that fills the deepest portion of the Turfan basin. The careful observations with the mercurial barometer taken along it have made it possible to determine its depression below sea-level (close on 1000 feet) with