

winds which beat upon them help to reduce them eventually into dust. This very phenomenon is now being repeated in Upper Egypt. There, at the foot of the sandstone hills, the accumulating grains of quartz are built up into dunes, which sometimes rise to a sufficient height to mask completely the other hills. Only here and there a few points of harder and more stable rock may be seen, which have resisted decomposition, and emerge like islands from the sea of sand, formed, so to speak, under our very eyes.



FIG. 86.—DESERT OF THE SAHARA.

The winds and hurricanes which rage unchecked over the immense surface of the desert, transport to great distances veritable mountains of sand and dust, and pile them up to a prodigious elevation. One of these heights, formed by the action of the winds on masses of sand brought from other points of the wilderness, extends from Morocco as far as Tunis; it bears the name of the *Arègue*.