

Kätschkin-aghis the river, which is now called the Jumalak-darja or Terem, as well as the Tarim, makes its way down some small cataracts. The natives here are acquainted with the name of Jarkent-darja, but not with that of Ak-su-darja. The new bed is as usual called the Jangi-darja and the old bed the Kona-darja.



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Fig. 109. BED OF THE NEW TARIM THROUGH THE SANDY DESERT. DUNES ON THE RIGHT BANK. VIEW LOOKING DOWNSTREAM.

November 22nd. Rise 0.8 cm. Transparency, 3.1 cm. at 7 a. m. and 4.0 at 1 p. m. The banks were 0.60 m. high. Our day's journey lay through the outer margin of the great sandy desert. Where the dunes stood in the way, they have been broken down by the irresistible violence of the advancing flood. Against its incorruptible force the sand is utterly powerless. The direction of the river is a straight line due east-south-east, though there are of course a few minor curves. On both sides the sand-dunes are 10, 12, 15 m. high, and frequently quite barren, more especially on the right bank, where they are highest, as indeed might be expected, seeing that it is on that side the desert lies. On the left bank, and sometimes also on the right bank as well, we would perceive an occasional solitary poplar. Tamarisks are, however, pretty numerous, and the reed-belts still persist on both sides of the river, except where they are thrust aside by the sand-dunes approaching to the water's edge. The lower part of these dunes are frequently quite