

here again we have the characteristic formation of three parallel channels running side by side, the middle watercourse being the largest. Upon reaching the district of Jar-kum, the southern arm is joined by a branch from the Tarim proper, and then re-enters it, near our camp, by two channels pretty wide apart from one another. This southern arm, as well as the chain of lakes it feeds, is situated in the midst of absolutely barren sand, and forms, as it were, a continuation of the Kara-akin which I have already described as being on the same side of the river. This is, of course, a different stream from the Kara-akin which was now running parallel to us on the left. To have measured the river in a region such as this would have served no purpose whatever, since it was impossible to know whether there might not always be some portion of its stream which escaped one's observation. At Tschong-otak the left-hand Kara-akin is linked to the main river by yet another arm. Here poplars, tamarisks, and kamisch are more plentiful than usual. At Tschong-schakurun the river divides into five arms, all shallow and narrow, flowing round small islets of kamisch, and forming small cataracts. South of the old river-bed lies the lake of At-kojmaghan-köl, the last surviving portion of a former marginal lagoon of considerable extent. After that the sand again gradually wins the upper hand, and the reed-beds become smaller, growing upon so-called *lajdang*, or sedimentary matter which the new arm (*jangi-darja*) has laid down in a former lake-basin. Hereabouts the banks are extremely low, or else altogether non-existent. At Jar-kum the highest dunes that overhang the river are 12 m. high. The northern Kara-akin at length rejoins the Tarim at

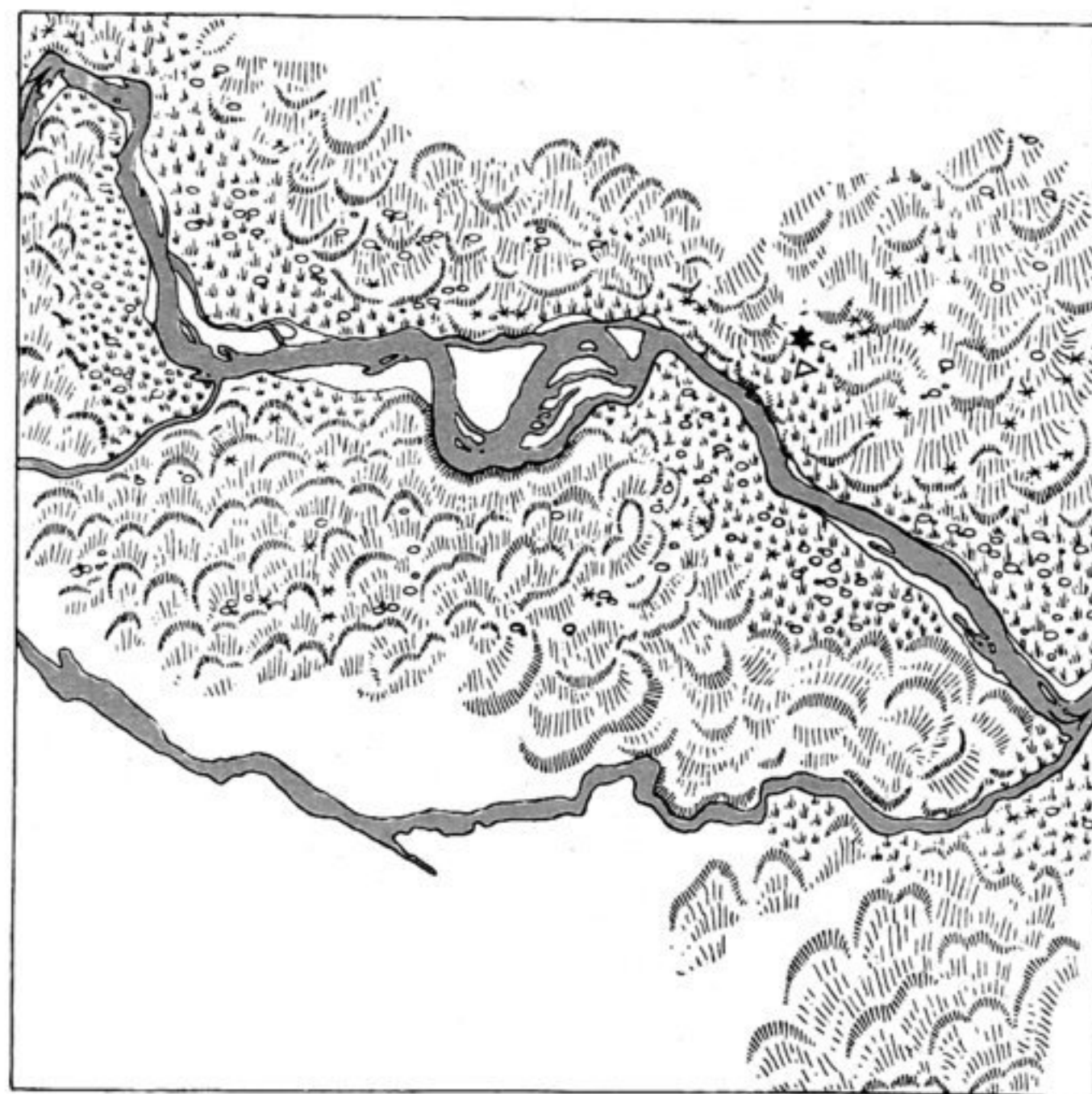


Fig. III. SURROUNDINGS OF THE CAMP OF NOV. 22.

Kara-akin-kojuschi through two channels, and contributes to it quite a respectable volume of water. After this the river broadens out a little, but still continues very shallow, and is quite swift. Just above our camp, situated in a spot that bears no name, the river widened out into a broad basin amongst the sand-dunes, and was for the most part filled with deposits of sand.

November 23rd. Rise, 0.15 cm. Transparency, 4.0 cm. at 7 a. m. and 5.1 at 1 p. m. Banks, 2.60 m. high; high-water level, 1.50 m. During the day the river swung away to the east-north-east, and became more sinuous. Just below our camp the sand suddenly came to an end, and receded altogether from the river, except in two places lower down. It was, further, hidden from us by a poplar wood, for these trees were now very plentiful again. Consequently drift-wood is once more common. The second arm of the southern parallel stream is called Kamber Schang-janing-jokarki-tötter-suji. Immediately below it there is an artificially dug canal, then