

was rising, whilst the Atschik-darja was unmistakably falling. It is very probable that the movement we observed was merely a movement of the superficial layer of water, and that there was a lower current from the Tarim forcing its way into the Atschik-darja along its bottom. After this confluence the only river remaining on the left hand is the Ögen-darja; except that there is said to be an old river-bed, deep, but now choked with vegetation, which has never contained water within the memory of man. The mouth of the Atschik-darja is called the Jokarki-arelisch.*



Fig. 126. BREAKING THE ICE FOR PLACING THE NETS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE KÖRUK.

Immediately below this important point comes the Tömänki-arelisch, or confluence of the Opghan-darja, entering from the right. Although this river is so old, its terminal reaches are very exceptionally distinct and easy to see, and even contained an occasional frozen pool. The Opghan-darja, after breaking through the high sand at a point where dominating heights overhang it on both sides, strikes the Tarim at a slightly acute angle, pointing down-stream. Thus the Opghan-darja has at some time flowed along the outer margin of the great sandy desert in pretty much the same way, and under the same conditions, as the Jumalak-darja. In this

* Properly speaking, the word *arelisch* signifies a »bifurcation», or »place of division, or parting», and is used when a river or a road divides, or when people, who have been keeping company, separate. *Koschlasch*, *kujluschi* or *küjusch* is the word for »confluence». But in the country of the lower Tarim the words *arelisch*, *ajrilghan*, and *arghan* are used in both meanings, the consequence evidently of the natives' practice of traversing their waterways in canoes. Thus at Atschik-darja we have a waterway dividing into two branches, the direction of the current being ignored.