

Bogen und kehrt beinahe auf denselben Punkt zurück; die Landenge wird aber durch einen kleinen Wasserarm durchschnitten; dieser Arm hatte in seiner Mitte einen ganz kleinen See gebildet, Ak-köl genannt. Der Arm war so schmal, dass nur ein Kanoe hätte passiren können. Wahrscheinlich wird der weite Bogen mit der Zeit vom Fluss verlassen und abgeschnitten werden — —; die Geschwindigkeit des Stromes ist in dem kleinen Kanal bedeutend grösser als im Fluss.» Since these words were written, the loop has been abandoned by the river, though its boldschemal, with the exception of a small part near the upper extremity, was still full of water. The two projections on each side of the breach, where the neck of land or stalk of the loop was cut through, still confronted each other, though both were a good deal worn away. The undermining had been, it was evident, greatly facilitated by the little branch which traversed the Ak-köl. This last, together with its connecting link, has of course disappeared; but the name remains, and will no doubt in time be transferred to the boldschemal.



Fig. 186. THE TARIM AT SCHIRGE-TSCHAPGHAN.

Some distance lower down, and on the same side of the river, yet another similar loop has been destroyed. At Boghu-baschi there is an abandoned hut. Thence the Tarim proceeds south for a time, then turns west until it reaches the fort of Kurghan and its örtäng, where it once more strikes the great highway. There in the middle of a loop there is a siltisland, a remarkably rare phenomenon in this part of the river, where there exists no room for alluvium to develop. There is no forest after leaving Schirge-tschapghan; the few poplars which still occur stand isolated and are quite young. On the right we have Toktasin Bek's arik and on the left Aru-akkan, a canal coincident with an old and otherwise dried up bed of the Tarim.