

too was a *tüschkün* or point of contact between the river and the great highway from Abdal to Tscharklik. The ground on both sides of the river there is firm and settled, and is no longer exposed to inundation. Then we have, on the left, Ejsa Kullu Aksakal-ottogho, and on the right Tadschini-ottogho. The »ford» of Kätschik is no longer practicable, the stream being too deep, even when running at its lowest. Beyond that the river flows unusually straight as far as Ghun-köruk\* (pron. Ghun-köjuk). At Tschakullalik there is a very sharp bend.

We encamped just above Badschit-tschantschdi, whence, as far as we were able to see to the north, the country was bare and free from sand, flat as the surface of a lake, except for an occasional tamarisk growing on its peculiar root-mound; in all probability it is a region that was formerly under water. The depths all the way from the confluence of the Tschertschen-darja were very considerable, the deepest soundings obtained being 4.20, 3.40, 3.20, 4.06, 4.80, 5.14, 4.98, 3.45, 4.03, 5.43, 3.75, and

4.25 m., and then on the farther stretch down to Jurt-tschapghan 4.85, 5.23, 4.10, 4.0, 5.24, 4.75, 5.15, and 3.10 m. The breadth was remarkably uniform, and the alluvial deposits, where there were such, nothing more than the thinnest strips along the convex banks.

On and after the 21st June the only names I noticed were Jangi-köl, a now dry tract on the right bank, though formerly inundated; Jaruk, with an *ile-dung* or »signpost-hill», that is a mound with a pole stuck in it, beside the road to Tscharklik; Muren-ajaghi, where the brook of Muren or Mian used formerly to enter the river

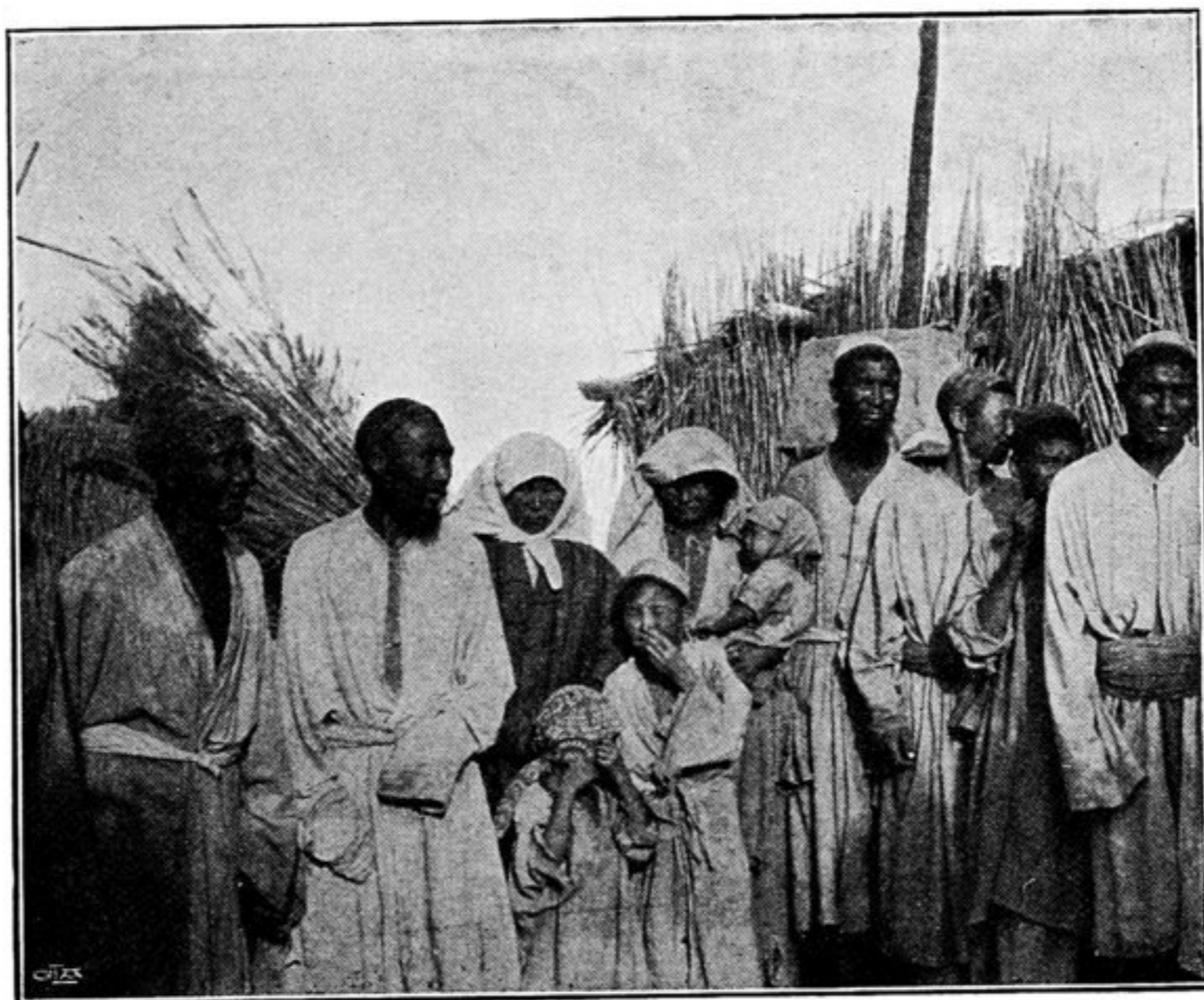


Fig. 199. GROUPE OF NATIVES AT JURT-TSCHAPGHAN.

Tujdale; Kitschik-atscha, a small river-branch of older date, on the left; Kujghu-tschapghan, a canal watering some pasture-grounds on the right. After passing this last we perceived ahead of us on the right bank the characteristic crenelated walls of the fort, partly in ruins, and the huts of Jurt-tschapghan, also known as Basch-uj. Over against these we pitched our camp. A short distance below Jurt-tschapghan the river finally empties itself into the marsh of Kara-koschun. This last section of the stream will be described when dealing with the marsh — in Vol. II.

\* This word means »deep mud lagoon», not »sun-bridge», as I, misled by an erroneous explanation, have stated in *Petermanns Mitteilungen*; I was then under the impression that it was a corruption of Gün-köbruk.