

kum (pronounced *ta'kum*), or the Narrow Sand, i. e. the narrow passage between the dunes, an especially significant name, proving as it does, that in this locality at any rate the river flows through a belt of dunes, and not through an unbroken forest, as one would suppose from Roborovskij's map. Generally, his details are quite trustworthy where they are entered from his own personal observation. There are several parallels to this Tar-kum beside others of the rivers of East Turkestan; *e. g.* Jughan-kum (Big Sand) beside the Kerija-darja, Jaman-kum (Horrid Sand) beside the Tschertschen-darja, Tokus-kum (Nine Dunes) beside the Tarim, Tagh-kum (Mountain Sand) beside the Ettek-tarim. In each of these localities, and there are many others, patches of bare sand have advanced quite close to the river.

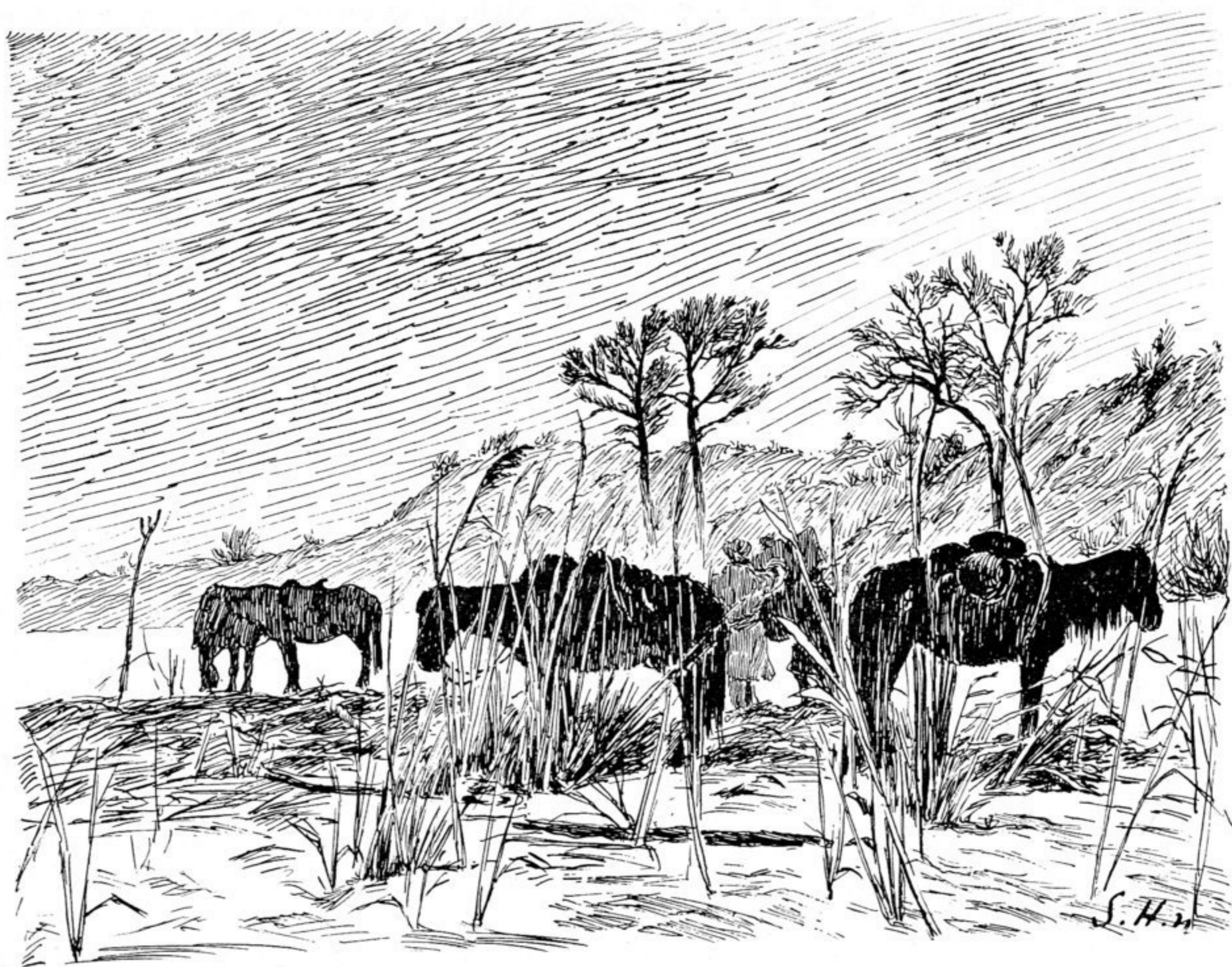


Fig. 331. KÜRTSCH-AGHIL.

The Andere-darja is said to curve to the north-east before reaching Andere-terem, and so too does the Tollan-chodscha; in fact these two streams flow generally parallel to one another. The journey between Jar-tongus-terem and Andere-terem is said to be done by a mounted man in a day. At the former there are ten shepherd families dwelling, who cultivate wheat and maize on the level alluvia between the river-banks. Poplars are reported to accompany the Tollan-chodscha as far as Jar-tongus.

On the 24th January we rode along the track which ascends the left bank of the stream, winding in and out amongst tamarisk-mounds, open fields of thick ka-