

Fig. 336. THE OLD RIVER-BED TO THE NORTH OF THE TSCHERTSCHEN-DARJA.

some dead, some living. To the north sand predominates. The bottom of the river consists chiefly of sand, rising in some places into small dunes, and there are a few mounds actually in the middle of the bed itself. On the right bank we came across traces of a village, namely two square huts, built of faggots and branches and kamisch, projecting about one meter above the sand-smothered soil. The name given to huts of this description is *gerem*. There was also surviving the lower part of a wooden house. To judge from the hard and trodden appearance of the droppings of live stock in the vicinity, these huts had

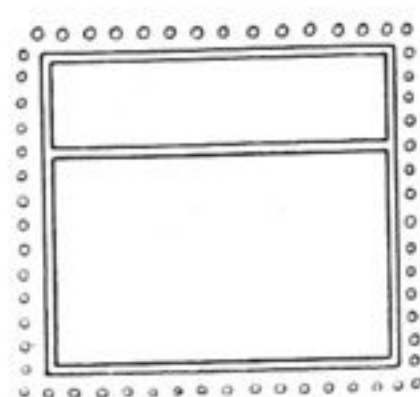


Fig. 337. PLAN OF A SQUARE HUT.

been inhabited by shepherds, and could not very well be of any great age, any more than the Tschong-schipang bed could. For if the river were very old, it would have been already filled with sand-dunes. Immediately below this point the old river-bed divides. The right arm, which returns directly to the river, is called the Kalta-schipang; the other, the principal branch, continues towards the east-north-east. In this we discovered the remains of a double dam, constructed of beams, piles, faggots, and clay, which seemed to have been made for the purpose of forcing the river to the right. Upon reaching Mätschit (ruins of a mosque) we were again quite close to the Tschertschen-darja, the old bed being only separated from it by a strip of tamarisk-mounds and bush forest; but they soon diverge again for a space. The last portion of the old bed is indistinct, becoming lost amongst the sand and vegetation, but at Su-ösgeu it once more reunites with

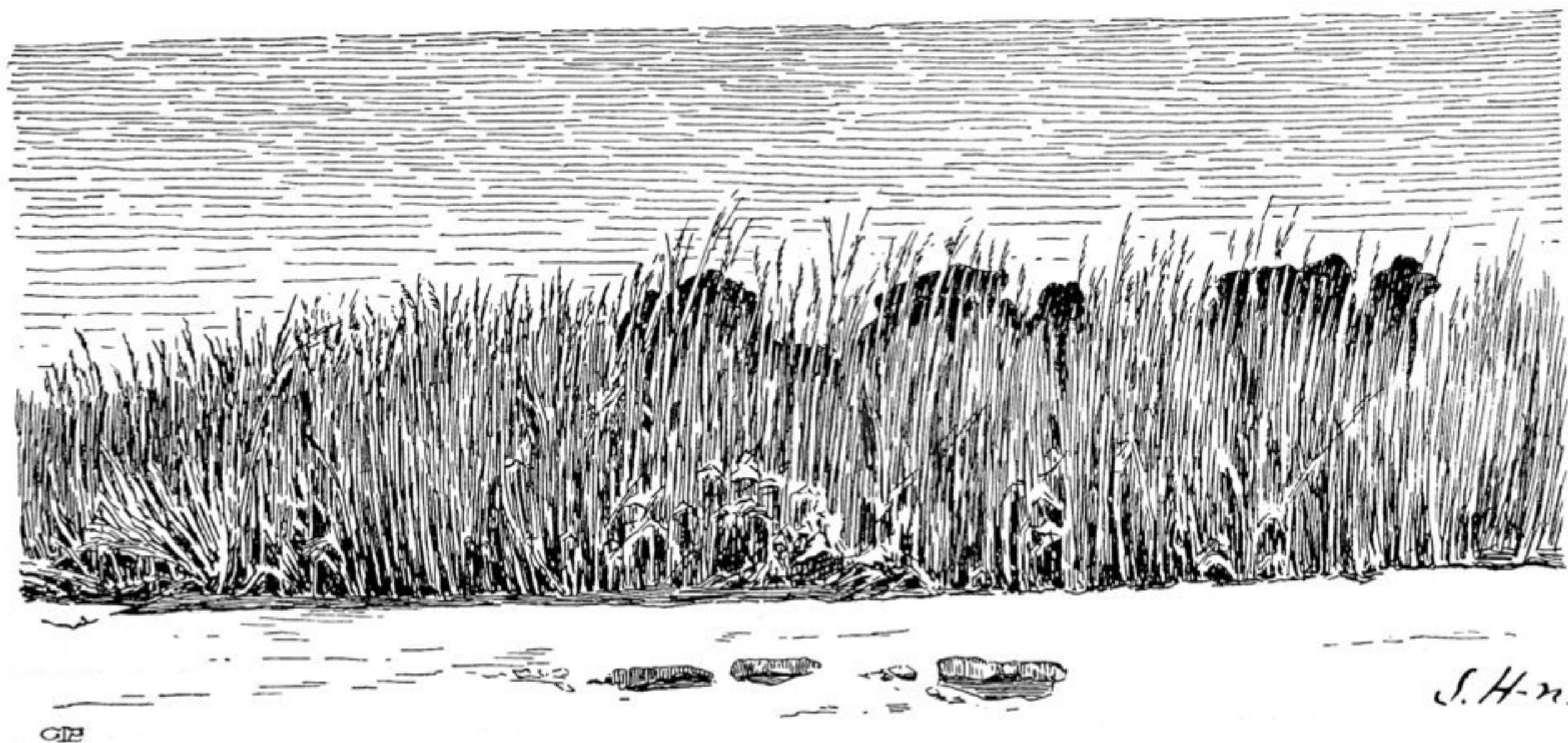


Fig. 338. FIELD OF THICK KAMISCH ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE TSCHERTSCHEN-DARJA.