

CHAPTER XXXV.

TSCHERNOFF'S EXPEDITION.

Before I proceed to a general résumé of the entire Tarim system I will adduce the results of an excursion which was made in the winter of 1900—1901 by my Cossack Tschernoff up the lower Tarim from Tscharklik. As I have myself already visited the district in question, it may perhaps appear superfluous to return to it again. A great many of the names which appear in vol. I occur again in Tschernoff's itinerary, but he records also a great many new ones, and it really is for the sake of recording them that I have deemed it expedient to dwell for a moment upon the results of his journey, and all the more so as he visited several tracts which during my own journey I had no opportunity of visiting. Tschernoff mapped the whole of his itinerary, embodying the results in 28 sheets; but the work is so rough and primitive that I have been unable to use them as a continuation of my own cartographical results. Nevertheless for the sake of curiosity I append a couple of them here. Tschernoff himself was unable to write, and the text which accompanies the maps was written at his dictation by my Mahomedan secretary, Rosi Mollah. Generally speaking the narrative contains little that is new or interesting; but such of it as falls within either of these categories is quoted in the following extracts.

The little company started from Tscharklik on the 3rd January, and returned to the same place on the 7th February. On the way out they rested three days in Tikenlik, and one day at Jangi-köl, while on the return journey their only rest was one of two days at Tikenlik. Thus the number of actual marching days was thirty. As certain of the stages of the return journey coincided with stages made on the way out, no observations were recorded for them.

The following are the names noted for the first day out — Tscharklik, Kona-schahr (ruins north of Tscharklik which I visited in 1896), Hejmet Mirabninglengeri (a station-house), Kesken-toghrak, Multuk-kojghan (in a belt of tamarisk-mounds), Kuduk-kaulaghan (in a schor region), Dung-otak (likewise a region with tamarisk-mounds), Nadschi-bidschin, near which an old *potaj* was seen. Thus far I also covered the same route in 1896 when I travelled from Abdal to Tscharklik. Beyond Nadschi-bidschin they quitted that route, leaving it on the right hand, and