

another branch enters from the Kaschgar-darja; though it contained nothing except stagnant pools. Thus the Kaschgar-darja joins the main stream in different places; that is to say, unlike the Ak-su-darja, it forms a delta, though its arms are not, it is true, very permanent. On the right an old bed of the Jarkent-darja. Wheat is cultivated at Jigde-kotan and Jesi-köl.

27th October. Very winding; a large boldschemal; depth amounting to 6 m. and more; current very sluggish; thin toghrak forest, elsewhere tamarisks and kamisch; terraced banks  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. high. Wheat grown in two or three places.

Herewith we leave the Jarkent-darja behind us, the journey down it having shown clearly that it dwindles as it approaches the confluence of the Ak-su-darja. As compared with this latter, the Jarkent-darja is narrow, deep, winding, and sluggish. Its banks are generally planted with poplar woods. The confluence presents an extensive view across a very flat, broad expanse of alluvium. While the Jarkent-darja brings down in its flood-season but little solid material, the Ak-su-darja still continues to deposit sediment as late as the end of October. During its high-water period this last rolls down immense quantities of mud and sand, which one would expect gradually to raise or else choke up its bed, to the extent of causing serious catastrophes. But as a matter of fact the noteworthy erosive activity which the river develops effects an equilibrium, which is the expression of the component of its erosive and its sedimenting capacities. And from this spot vast quantities of solid material are transported farther down the river.

29th October. The river, henceforward to be called the Tarim, although it does indeed wind, is nevertheless a good deal straighter than the lower Jarkent-darja. It is broad, powerful, shallow; the terraced banks lower than those of the Jarkent-darja. Steppe and bushes next the edge of the river, the fine toghrak forest being some distance back. There are a few settled places, some with, others without, wheat cultivation. Not far from the left bank the sandy belt of Kisil-kum.

30th October. The river especially straight; at this season of the year less than half the river-bed is filled with water. Here it is joined from the south by the broad, flat bed of the Chotan-darja, filled with alluvia. On the northern bank, in the line of its continuation, there is an old river-bed known as Kara-kertschin.

31st October. Ditto — ditto. Below the confluence of the Chotan-darja the bed of the Tarim is broader, and contains more alluvia than above that point. From Modsche-toghvak it is reckoned to be 18 km. to the Kisil-kum in the north-west and 36 km. to the great sandy desert in the south-east. The forest beside the lower Chotan-darja is in places fairly thick, as it is indeed throughout the entire course of the river.

1st November. The river remarkably straight; the last half of the day rather narrow, with a swift current, which in two or three places forms rapids. On the left bank is the sandy belt of Ala-kum, not very far distant; probably it is connected with the Kisil-kum. At Koghunluk on the right bank thick and magnificent forest covers a considerable area. Lower down on the same side is a dry watercourse called Lajlik-darjasi, possibly the beginning of the Atschik-darja that I crossed between the Kerija-darja and the Tarim.

2nd November. River very straight, except for one loop below Läschlik. At this point the Kara-kertschin reenters the Tarim; but on the other hand the Atschik-