

out of the Schah-jar-darja. At Gädshir there are dunes bearing tamarisks. Owing to the vicinity of Schah-jar the country is more inhabited. Several roads and paths. Canoes now began to be numerous.

10th November. The river here makes wide sweeping curves, and has sometimes a narrow bed, sometimes very extensive alluvial deposits. Tamarisk and kamisch steppe predominates. The great forest is a long way from the river. Sandy ground and dunes overgrown with vegetation are frequent. The eroded and terraced banks are at the most 1 m. high, and very often there are none at all. Every now and again there are high-water arms still filled with water. Here is a boldschemal of an exceptionally large size, in fact it is more like a marginal lake.

11th November. The course moderately winding, with an abundance of alluvial deposits; the bed tolerably broad and shallow, and deep at the bends; several boldschemals. Underwoods and steppe. The river is generally called here the Ögen. It is estimated to be two days to the big sandy desert.

12th November. Very winding; thick magnificent forest on both banks. On the south there are considered to be three old river-beds, namely the Kuruk-darja, the Arka-darja, and the Atschik-darja. Their several positions can only be estimated approximately, because the natives seldom visit that region.

13th November. The river tolerably winding; no boldschemals visible. Next the river is kamisch steppe; some distance away thick woods. At a northern bend the Intschkä-darja enters.

14th November. Not particularly sinuous. Here also the natives are acquainted with three old dry river-beds to the south, all embedded in sand. No boldschemals visible; thick woods.

15th November. The river rather winding; a moderate amount of alluvia; a couple of boldschemals; forest sporadic; kamisch and tamarisk steppe predominates. At Kudsche-käldi sand-dunes with tamarisks 4 m. high. Here the big forest appeared to accompany the old river-beds to the south.

16th November. The river rather less sinuous than hitherto, and deep and narrow, and the current sluggish; alluvial deposits less extensive. A high-water channel south of the river. Forest sporadic, otherwise mostly tamarisk steppe. The big forest beside an old bed to the north. Here it was only half a day's journey to the great desert, known locally as Ak-kum.

17th November. Rather big windings, narrow bed, scanty alluvial deposits; a couple of boldschemals; high-water arms connecting the river both ways with the marginal lake of Tschark-asti-köl on the north. Another high-water arm, that does not rejoin the river, and in autumn contains detached pools of water, is known as the Hasanak-darja. The old bed of the Kuruk-darja is reported to lie embedded amongst barren sand. Generally speaking, the great sandy desert approaches here nearer than it has done hitherto. Although forest does occur, it is steppe that predominates.

18th November. Only small insignificant bends. The river narrow, sometimes not more than 20 m. across; the depth approaching to 7 m., the terraced banks 2 m. high; scarce any alluvium; thick kamisch steppe on the banks. It is characteristic of this part of the river that it gives off several branches on both sides during the