

29th May. The Adoke-kok-alasi issues from the Laschin-darja and rejoins the Tarim. The surface of the ground is sandy. This branch also carried at one time the whole of the Tarim.

30th May. The course tolerably winding; little forest; reeds dense. The river again enters a series of lakes.



Fig. 243. THE KUNTSCHKISCH-TARIM AT KIRTSCHIN-KOTAN.

31st May. After traversing this fresh chain of lakes, the water once more re-enters the old bed of the Tarim. From these lakes it issues, as it did from the former series, clear and bright, having dropped in them all the sediment it carried in suspension. At its issue from each chain of lacustrine basins it forms cataracts. The direction of the longer axes of the lakes from north-west to south-east is dictated by the ramparts of the old river-beds, between which the overflows take place. Upon issuing from the lower series of lakes the river is deep, with an exceedingly slow current. Only a few solitary poplars.

1st June. The river describes several small bends, and has a very sluggish flow, for this is now again the old bed which it is about to abandon. The high sand is touched at one point only. On the left the large marginal lake of Putalik-köl. Poplar woods pretty abundant; tamarisks growing amongst dunes held together by vegetation. At Basch-arghan begins the old bed of the Tarim known as the Ettek-tarim; this runs due south until it enters the Kara-buran at the village of Lop. Its bed was definitely abandoned about 35 years ago, but is still quite distinct, although a dune-accumulation in its westward advance is threatening to