

embraced in these 985 are for census purposes of minor significance. Add to these, 140 other villages which I noted during my 1899—1900 journeys, mostly from districts which I did not touch in the course of my former journey. Of this last total forty places are situated in the Lop country, and as I shall make a separate calculation for that part of the region, I may in the meantime disregard these forty. Let me say then, that we have 1,000 villages from the former journey and 100 from the latter; this gives us some 1,100 in all. The difficulty that remains is to ascertain how many are left out of account. By way of a preliminary estimate I should set down the number in this category along the Maral-baschi-Korla road at 100, and for the rest of East Turkestan at 200, so that we thus have a grand total of 1,400 villages, a figure which there is every reason to believe is not too high an estimate.

But difficult though it is to determine the number of the villages, it is even more difficult to arrive at even an approximate idea of the number of the inhabitants. When you ask a bek as to the number of people in the village over which he exercises authority, he will tell you, not how many individuals there are, but how many households the village possesses, and the word he will employ, *ujlik*, meaning »steading», »family», »household», is rather elastic. By *ujlik* the Turks mean in general the number of persons who eat out of one and the same cooking-pot at meal-times, that is to say, the man and his wife, the children and servants, and very often also the sons' wives and the grandchildren. Thus an *ujlik* may embrace fifty persons, though it is seldom that it does so; but on the other hand there are *ujlik* which consist of only two



Fig. 265. A LOPMAN IN A CANOE.



Fig. 266. SATMAS IN KUM-TSCHEKE.