



Fig. 268. ENTRANCE TO THE BAZAAR OF TAVEK-KEL.

The annexed list gives the approximate populations of the towns:

Jarkent	100,000	Jangi-hissar	4000
Kaschgar	33,000	Maral-baschi	4000
Ak-su	15,000	Korla	3000
Kerija	12,000	Nija	2000
Karghalik	8000	Tschertschen	2000
Chotan*	5000	Utsch-turfan	2000
Kutschar	4000	Ghuma	1400
Tschira	4000	Schah-jar	1200

As this table shows, several of the large villages named above have a stronger claim to be included in the class of »towns» than Ghuma and Schah-jar; but in my classification I have followed the accepted usage, which does not accord the title of »town» to Kan-arik or Fajs-abad, or even to Merket, though it does possess 4000 inhabitants, while it does allow it to Schah-jar, notwithstanding this place numbers only 1200 inhabitants. According to the above list there are sixteen places in East Turkestan which are counted as towns, although the two terms which were current before Jakub Bek's time, namely Alti-schahr, or the Six Towns, and Jäti-schahr, or the Seven Towns, are still in general use. By the »seven towns» were no doubt originally meant Kaschgar, Ak-su, Korla, Jarkent, Karghalik, Chotan, and Kerija. The total population of the sixteen towns enumerated above amounts to 200,000 persons. Consequently the settled population who carry on agriculture and depend directly upon irrigation for their sustenance amounts in all to 1,700,000. This figure is probably not too high. For example, the district of Tasghun is reported to be pretty densely populated, and the country between Maral-baschi and Matan, which is practically unknown, is estimated to possess 2400 families, or at least 10,000 souls, who depend upon the irrigation canals from the Jarkent-darja and the Kaschgar-darja.

* In my calculation I have embraced Kara-kasch and Jurun-kasch amongst the villages.