

valley of the Indus, whereupon the country as a whole widens out to grandiose dimensions. When we first caught sight of it, the great river was flowing from the S. 25° E.

Wheeling round the bluff that separates the side-glen from the principal valley, we travelled down the latter on the right bank of the Indus. At the angle of the road, and almost opposite the bridge across the Indus, there are two immense stone kists, one 250 m., the other 420 m. long, about 6 m. broad, and 2 to 3 m. high. We also observed several stone kists on the opposite or left side of the valley, beside a flat gravelly scree at the outlet of a narrow transverse glen. In this valley stands the temple village of Hemi. Marschang, Mangaltschak, and Dschanga

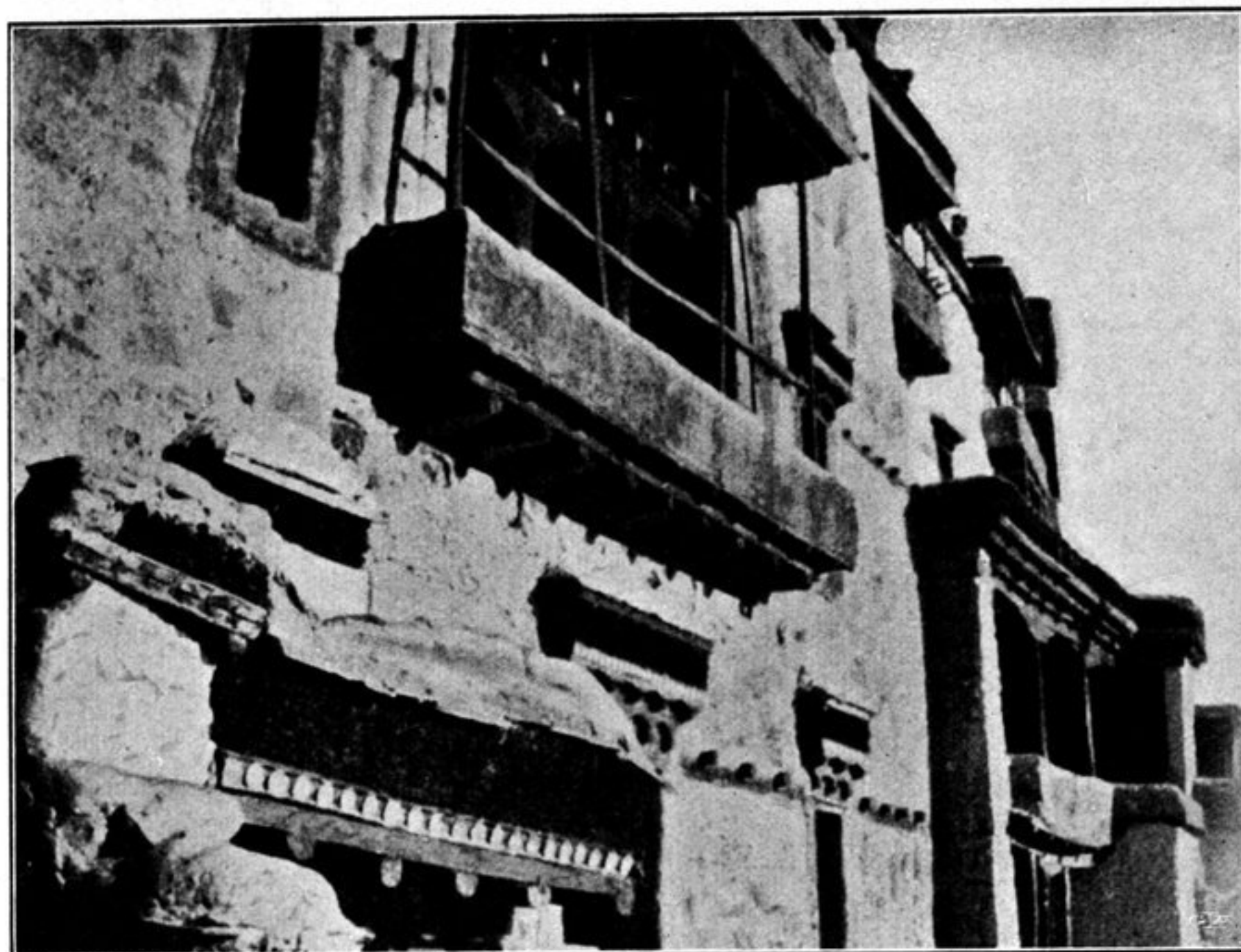


Fig. 278. DETAIL OF THE SAME.

are the names of villages on the left bank of the river. The bed of the stream is there very deep, 40 to 50 m. down, and its eroded escarpments are built up entirely of gravel-and-shingle and pebbles. Estimating by the eye, the volume would be then about 10 to 15 cub.m. in the second, and the water was perfectly transparent, so that almost everywhere, where it was not too deep, we were able to discern the gravel and stones at the bottom. The fall is so great that almost all the way along the river forms cataracts. Nevertheless narrow ribbons of ice had succeeded in forming along the banks, though only in places in which there was no current. The whole of the stream was collected into a sharply defined and very distinct channel, and the alluvial deposits, which are only covered at high water, were exceedingly narrow. At wide intervals tiny alluvial islands, oblong in shape, projected above the water, and were generally covered with snow. The fact of their occurring just where they do is clearly due to the protection afforded by the deep bed of the river, because the country on both banks is bare.