

CHAPTER I.

THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE GEZ-DARYA, 1894.

Three times I have travelled from *Fergana* to *Kashgar*. My first journey took place in December 1890 from *Osh* viâ *Terek-davan*, which was crossed on December 5th, *Irkesham*, *Ulugchat*, *Kanjungan*, *Ming-yol* and finally *Kashgar*. The second journey began on February 23rd, 1894 from *Margelan* and proceeded across the Pass of *Tengis-bai*, the *Alai* valley, *Trans-Alai*, the *Great Kara-kul*, *Pamirskiy Post*, *Mus-tagh-ata* and *Gez-darya* to *Kashgar*. The third time I again began from *Osh*, on July 31st, 1899 and took the road of *Gulcha*, *Taldik-davan*, *Tongburun* or *Taun-murun-davan* which is the water-parting between the western and eastern *Kisil-su*, and finally the ordinary road by *Irkesham* to *Kashgar*.

As we, in this connection, are only concerned with such roads as have possibly been used by Chinese travellers of older times I will not describe these three roads, so much the less as this has already been done in my personal narratives. I will only stop for a moment at the last part of the second road, the one of *Gez-darya*, from which I have a few short annotations not before published.

From April 27th to May 1st or in five days I accomplished the journey from *Bulung-kul* to *Kashgar* which is 140 km. in length, giving 28 km. a day as an average. Unfortunately I travelled through the *Gez* valley under as unfavourable circumstances as possible. Studying the glaciers at the west side of the *Mus-tagh-ata*, I was attacked by a very violent iritis which made any kind of work impossible and compelled me to hasten to *Kashgar*. Half blind and with a bandage on my eyes I took the *Gez-darya* road which was the shortest. Of course it was impossible to make a map of the route.

The best orographical and morphological description of this region I have seen, is that of Dr. ARVED SCHULTZ.¹ Of his five names of places in the valley, *Gez*, *Kuruk*, *Atschik*, *Jul-tugai* and *Ui-tag*, I only heard three, viz, *Gez*, *Kuruk* and *Ui-tagh*. Of course there are many other names, though, by reason of my illness, I only noted a few of them.

¹ *Landeskundliche Forschungen im Pamir*. Hamburg 1916, p. 112 et seq.