

appears again at the village of Sughun at the eastern foot of the mountain. The river valley now has a different character. Both banks are flat with houses and trees extending to the river bed, which is about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a mile wide. In the middle of it the river winds, sometimes in 2, sometimes in 1 broad arm, from one bank to the other. The depth is not more than 1 m and the river can be forded even at high-water.

The day was cloudy and a cold east wind, blowing in our faces, made our work hard to-day. At first the river and its bed bear the same character during its further course eastward as during yesterday from the Sughun mountain. The river flows, separating into several arms, of which 1 or 2 are always larger than the others, in a bed of 1 to  $1\frac{1}{3}$  miles in breadth. Both banks are flat, tilled and inhabited. The fields extend at times between the arms of the river. The southern bank, however, is decidedly more densely populated and has more villages than the northern one. No mountains in the north; in the south the chain of mountains of the previous day seems almost to reach the river with its northern point. Between it and the river a small isolated mountain rises in the direction NW—SE. Approximately on a level with these mountains there is a ledge on the northern bank at some distance from the actual line of the bank, at first low, but subsequently about 3 fathoms high and in terraces, from which you get an excellent view of the flat southern bank. Above it there is a desolate plain, intersected by numerous water channels, with hard ground of fine gravel. All the tilled land lies between this ledge and the river. This height extends for about 7 miles parallel to the river at a distance of 150—250 fathoms from it, whereupon it disappears gradually, when the river adopts a more SE direction, and gives way to larger fields.

The villages of Gumbez Aldy with about 60 houses and later Djadjigda with about 50 have taken the place of Sughun with its 70 houses. On the southern bank lie Bagan, west of the mountain, and Tokmak with 30 houses, Sumaptche with about 40 and Jailaktyr with 60, east of it. At the place, where the fields become larger on the northern bank, the village of Yangelmelesse begins, Jailaktyr still extending opposite it. The ruins of a small »Kalmuk» guard-house of unbaked bricks stands on the ledge referred to at the end of the village of Gumbez Aldy. From here up to Yangelmelesse the river flows in a single main arm with insignificant subsidiary arms. At the latter village the river crosses the road from Uch Turfan to Aqsu. In the winter a small bridge is thrown over the river here. During high-water 3 barges, with 15 horses each, carry the traffic. Contrary to my information of yesterday, I was told that for all this distance it is impossible to ford the river at high-water, i.e., for 2 or 3 months, except at Sughun and slightly above the bridge mentioned above. At these two places the depth is about 1 m. 30 cm. at that time. During the winter months the ice is said to give trouble in crossing the river and it is only for 6 months out of the 12 that the river presents no obstacle to traffic. Further east Aqyar begins on the southern bank and Qara Döbe with about 50 houses on the northern one and later Kichik Aral with about 500. The southern bank ascends perceptibly from the beginning of Aqyar and forms a vertically falling ledge, about 5 fathoms in height, along which there is a row of houses and trees. The northern bank continues flat. The river

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Aral Kitchik  
village.