



*Kirghiz women offering refreshments.*

for a distance of about 500 yards it could easily be made passable. The bridge consists of logs laid across the river with pieces of boards across them. For China it is quite good, and could easily be strengthened, if necessary, by trees brought from higher up or from lower down near the course of the Kok-su. The river is very swift and obviously deep. Just above the bridge it forms rapids.

Storms and the water have hollowed out the mountains on either side and formed enormous pits and more or less deep niches and grottoes, in which the storms produce astonishing sounds. E of the bridge stands a large piece of rock, on the SW face of which goats are carved; these carvings are apparently of great age. A little higher up the river, where the road winds just above the rapids over the smooth rocky spurs of a perpendicular mountain on the E bank, there are various carvings on the walls of three large, niche-like hollows, mostly depicting goats and marals, executed in the same primitive way as on the Ketsu-su, but also some hieroglyphics in various parts of the mountain. Some are undoubtedly of ancient origin, others seem to be comparatively recent. In drawing them I noticed that almost all the new ones were decorative reproductions of the half-obliterated old ones. Higher up on the face of the mountain about 14 feet from the ground in an inaccessible place there are some drawings that are almost entirely erased. I studied the spot through my glasses, but could only make out some goats or parts of them.

There are roads along the tributaries to Kok-su, over the Kapsalan pass to Little Dshirgalan (little used) and over the Khurdai and Sarri tur passes to the Qaragai tash mountains. These roads, as well as the road up the gorge of the river Kok-su, are said to be very stony and rough. The small sample that I saw of the Kok-su gorge was not promising.

E of the river Kok-su the S bank of the Tekes is fairly high and is not intersected by a single water channel along the whole way to Little Dshirgalan. This plain is called Qaradala. The grass is poor and you see no more herds grazing. Between this plain and