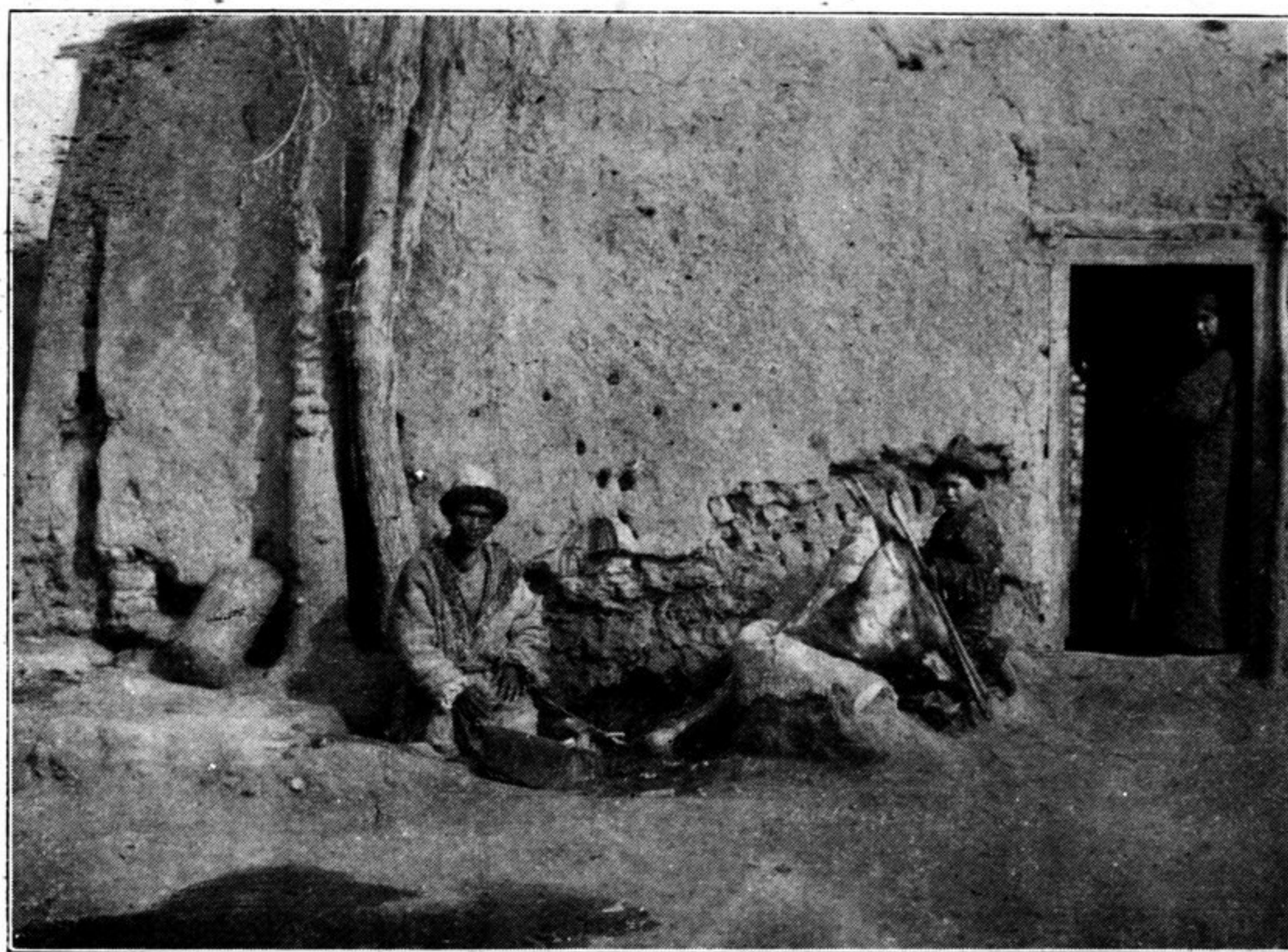


and cultivated wherever cultivable. The short stubbles afforded feeding for many coveys of chicore, which Dass and Abdul Karim stalked with very fair success. The valley wound about a good deal, but the route as far as Nosh Tung was good. Having set out at daybreak, I reached this village about four o'clock in the afternoon, but I knew not that it was Nosh Tung. In and about it there was a fair sprinkling of apricot-trees, but the



A NATIVE BLACKSMITH.

interesting fact was that the village did not stand at the junction of the Mariong and Yarkand Rivers. The Ming Bashi, with eyes much inflamed, came out with other men to meet me, and invited me to his house, but I declined to halt. They begged me not to go forward, and when I still went on, the Ming Bashi and another man ran on ahead for a few yards, then, suddenly turning, dropped on their knees and having brought their