



Fig. 18. The middle part of The Small River, with archaeological remains.

Lou-lan. Some fragments are shown on Pl. 18:4, 5, 8, 9. Various iron fragments and two arrow-points were also found, both of the points being triangular with tang, Pl. 18:3. A Chinese copper coin without legend, Pl. 18:6, seems to be a degenerated Wu-ch'u, a late Han or post-Han issue. A rather large dark blue grinding stone (mealing-stone) must have been transported to this stoneless place from far away. On nearly all exposed clay surfaces between the sand dunes in the neighbourhood of the ruin I saw red pottery fragments, pieces of rusty iron and slag.

The situation of this watch station makes it highly probable that it served either as an out-look for the Merdek fort or as a station along a road following The Small River from Charkhliq or Miran up to Qum-darya and the Silk Road, the latter in all probability having followed the main river.

Instead we turned to the south in search of a ruined watch-tower of which ÖRDEK spoke. He also mentioned another tower, said to be situated 20 li to the north-west of Cemetery 5. If we reckon the ordinary li as between 4- and 500 m. this would take us very near The Small River and Lake Pataliq-köl, traversed by it. ÖRDEK'S li, however, were more elastic than any other Turk's I have met. The limits between which his li used to fluctuate, during the short period I had occasion to control it, were 100 m. and 1000 m.

The first mentioned watch-tower was easily found nearly 18 km. SSW of Cemetery 5, and situated among sand dunes, 6—7 m. high, to the west of The Small River. The tower is built of stamped clay. The continual erosion by wind has worn away the sides considerably, and the shape is now conical, Pl. XIV a. It rises about 7 m. above the ground, the base was probably square originally; it measures 16×19 m. It is surrounded by a low square enclosure, partly sand covered. Especially on this low mound-shaped wall, but also on the ground, I found many potsherds of large, red vessels, the majority being plain. The profile of one of them is shown on Fig. 35:2. Besides the red ware there is also blue-grey, grey, and yellowish, all hard-burnt, recalling the ware known from