

many such bundles must be fastened together, and, when loaded, a much larger part lies below the surface of the water than above. My tutin took the ground at a depth of $15\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Two bunches of rushes tied along the edges ran from the bow backwards to a distance of a third of the boat's length from the stern, and served as a gunwale. They also prevented the baggage from slipping overboard.

Very lightly clad, and with naked legs, the steersman stands in the stern and manages the vessel with skill and agility. He stands facing forward, and sets his long thin pole against the bottom and throws all his weight on it, turning almost right round to give the greater pressure and force on the boat. The last thrust before the pole is pulled up from the bottom gives the greatest impulse to the boat.

We—myself and my six servants—went on board, each on his tutin, and steered out on the lake in rough water, with tumbling waves to larboard.

Close to the shore the lake is shallow, muddy, and open, but soon reeds in thin beds appear, and then we glide carefully and noiselessly along a canal 13 yards broad, through closer reeds. This passage is kept open for traffic between the eastern and western shores, the reeds are burned during the season when the lake is dry here, and then the new growth is uprooted, which threatens to grow up and block the channel. Here one voyages between hedges of reeds. The surge is smoothed down by them, the strong breeze is not felt, and we are immediately surrounded by swarms of midges. But the reeds are by no means so close and compact as in Lop-nor. The water is half clear, and runs in a very perceptible current south-south-west. We can observe it by the small ripples formed round every reed stem. It is the water of the Hilmend coming from the north and flowing southwards and south-westwards in the direction of Kuh-i-Khoja, where the ground is now being flooded foot by foot.

After an hour's journey the depth increases, but never during the whole passage of $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours sinks to $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and the places where the depth is 5 feet are comparatively