

that date was reached about a mile farther east, and presented itself now as a deeply cut Nullah, winding between forest where the young trees had already begun to wither from want of water.

We ascended this dry bed for some distance to the point known as Kokul-toghrak, where the river had branched off to the north-west. There we came upon a newly constructed embankment intended to keep the summer flood from breaking back again into the deserted channel. As I looked at this precarious barrier on which some sixty men were said to have toiled for over two months, I realized the hazard implied in cultivation at the Endere River end. The water I saw flowing past the 'Band' was the supply of 'Kara-su,' said to come from springs higher up, where the river-bed leaves the foot of the great gravel glaxis of the mountains. The amount of water thus permanently available seemed ample for a fair-sized oasis. The men from Niya estimated it at ten 'Tash,' *i.e.*, sufficient for moving ten millstones, and declared it more plentiful than the supply of 'Kara-su' available in their own river.

But all the advantage for irrigation derived from this abundance of water during the early part of the year is effaced by the risks which arise from the shifting of the river course at the time when the 'Ak-su,' or 'white water' of summer floods, comes rushing down from the snowy range. The cultivated area is then either exposed to flooding, or to being left without irrigation altogether through the river moving away from the canal head. The latter calamity had occurred during the preceding summer, and the small party from Endere Tarim, which hospitably came to meet me at Kokul-toghrak, complained bitterly of the assessment of a thousand Tangas still exacted for the acreage of two thousand *mou* supposed to be under crops.

I had no time to spare for a visit to this hapless 'Tarim,' but marched up the river for another six miles until nightfall compelled me to pitch camp amidst the luxuriant Toghraks of the shepherd-station known as Kara-öchke-öltürgan ('where the black goat had sat'). The carelessness of some of our labourers, who had set huge heaps