



Fig. 17. Torgut woman, 52 years old, the wife of Targhan Tserchi

the tents and baggage-carts, and OBISH KHAN sought salvation in the desert. Here, during a ten days' journey, they found neither pasture nor water, and were obliged to drink the blood of their horses and oxen. More than half the tribe perished and all their pack-animals were lost.

After seven months on the march they reached the frontier of Ili. OBISH KHAN had 70,000 of his original company left. When General SHU HO-TEH, the Governor of Ili, heard of the arrival of the Torguts he sent troops to defend the frontier and messengers to demand their business. OBISH KHAN replied that he was the more willing to submit as he was himself a lamaist and longed for a lamaistic country. He was tired of living under Russian rule, where the religion, customs and attire were so different from those of his own people.

Chinese opinion was divided. Some thought the Torguts should be well-received, others that they ought to be driven out of the country. The Emperor CH' IEN LUNG resolved to receive them with hospitality, and summoned their leader to Jehol. There he was given the title «khan», and his brother was made a prince, while the other Torgut chiefs were given lesser ranks.

The tribe was allotted new pasture-lands, comprising four different districts. The southern district was situated to the north of Qara-shahr, the northern one to the east of Tarbagatai, the eastern one between Ili and Urumchi, while that to the west was situated eastwards of Kulja. On the map «Innerasien» in STIELER's «Handatlas» one finds the word Torgut at these places to this day.