

XI. I N U R U M C H I

In the spacious courtyard of the bank Dr HAUDE had his meteorological observatory already in full swing, observations being carried out by DETTMANN and LI. HAUDE himself, meantime, had gone to the Bogdo-ula, where at an altitude of 2700 meters he had established a mountain observatory.

After dinner we had a number of visitors, amongst others the two Catholic missionaries, Father HILBRENNER, a German, and Father VELTMAN, who was Dutch. The latter two gentlemen proceeded to give me an insight into conditions in Urumchi. They were fond of a joke, high-spirited, and learned, and in the period that followed it was always a pleasure to meet them.

As the whole staff was now assembling at our new head-quarters in Urumchi it was not possible for all to be accommodated in the one house, and HEMPEL had therefore taken another house in the same street. This place was also in the Russian style and belonged to an old Sart from Tashkent. Thither I now betook myself with NORIN, HUMMEL, BERGMAN, SIU and TING. Each had a room to himself, and we had plenty to do till evening getting settled in our new quarters.

Here we were, then, in Urumchi, or Ti-hua as the Chinese call it,¹ the metropolis of the powerful YANG-TSENG-HSIN; and the full two months that I and some of the members of the staff spent in this town were of great importance for the future course and development of the expedition.

MEETING WITH GOVERNOR YANG

After we had fulfilled the usual courtesy obligations of travellers who are guests in the country, such as announcing our arrival and sending our visiting-cards, I was requested to present myself, together with my not yet complete staff, at the house of the Governor-General at 12 o'clock on February 29th. We had thus to prepare ourselves for the first ocular inspection.

¹ Opinion differs as to whether the name Urumchi (or Urumtsi according to the Russian transcription) is a Turki or a Mongol word. Ti-hua is the official Chinese name; but just as frequently the city is called Hung-miao-tze or Sinkiang-sheng by the Chinese. F. B.