

IX. BY CAR THROUGH INNER MONGOLIA

FROM PEKING TO MONGOLIA

On October 30th HUMMEL, MONTELL, and I took train to Kuei-hua. The two Danish members, HASLUND and JOHANSEN, were to drive our new car and a lot of luggage over Kalgan to the mission-station Khadain-sume, where they were to fetch the medical missionary JOEL ERIKSSON and his car and then join us at the camp at Beli-miao.

In Kalgan we were joined by LARSON, and in Kuei-hua we were met by GUSTAF SÖDERBOM, GEORG's elder brother. A day was devoted to preparations for the car-journey up to Beli-miao, and at the same time we managed to look over the decayed lama temples of the Blue City. Here GÖSTA MONTELL began his ethnographical collecting in the service of the expedition.

At nine o'clock on November 2nd, with GUSTAF SÖDERBOM at the wheel, HUMMEL, and I drove in a Dodge coupé from Kuei-hua on the big caravan-route over the Wu-kung-pa pass and past the town Kuku-irgen to Batu-khalagh-sume or Beli-miao, whose white temple-town appeared before us just after 5 p. m., after a drive of 160 kilometers.

THE CAMP OF THE GOBI-GROUP

Having been put on the right road by a Mongol, we found the camp of the Gobi-group on the other side of the temple-town. It was a splendid sight with its seven blue tents and rows of chests. Over two of the tents fluttered the Swedish flag. We sounded our horn, and masters and servants came hurrying out from the tents without having any idea of who we were. There came BERGMAN, and there HÖRNER, BEXELL and CHEN. The three last-mentioned members we were seeing for the first time. When darkness had fallen BOHLIN also came into camp from his work in the field.

I have already given some indications of the strange adventures that brought