

commanding figure to restore order out of chaos, there is of course a certain amount of safety for the foreigner whilst the factions are fighting amongst themselves, and the leaders may feel that one day their only chance of escaping may be through the assistance of the foreigner. On the other hand, owing to the lack of any stable form of government or dependence on any central authority, a sudden anti-foreign rising by a mob, or engineered by secret societies, would be more dangerous than in any other Province, owing to its inaccessibility.

Through the collapse of Russia, and in a lesser degree of Germany, the power of the foreigner to command respect in China is much less than it used to be, the more so as the remaining Powers are more engrossed in restoring order in their own countries. Luckily they still can demonstrate against Peking, Canton, Wu-ch'ang and Nanking, the four most important centres of influence in China, whilst with its long coast-line other important points can be threatened. Yünnan, too, with the railway to Hanoi and its neighbourhood to Burma, can feel the power of the foreigner, but the Western Provinces are generally isolated and beyond the reach of a foreign expedition. In the case of Kansu this does not much matter, as long as the Mahommedans and Chinese are more or less equably divided and engrossed with their own rivalries. Shensi and Kueichow and Kuangsi are unimportant Provinces, dependent on and influenced by their more powerful surroundings. The only inaccessible Province that matters is Szechwan, which is secure in its own isolation and