

*H. Cordier, Etudes Chinoises* (1891-1894), Leide, 1895, 8vo; *Id.* (1895-1898), Leide, 1898, 8vo. The initiator of these discoveries was N. Iarindsev, of Irkutsk, who died at Barnaoul in 1894, and the first great expedition was started from Finland in 1890, under the guidance of Professor Axel Heikel. (*Inscriptions de l'Orkhon recueillies par l'expédition finnoise, 1890, et publiées par la Société Finno-Ougrienne, Helsingfors, 1892, fol.*) The Russian expedition left the following year, 1891, under the direction of the Academician W. Radloff.

M. Chaffanjon (*Nouv. Archiv. des Missions Scient. IX.*, 1899, p. 81), in 1895, does not appear to know that there is a difference between Kará Korum and Kará Balgásun, as he writes: "Forty kilometres south of Kara Korum or Kara Balgásun, the convent of Erdin Zoun."

A plan of Kara Balgásun is given (plate 27) in *Radloff's Atlas*. See also *Henri Cordier et Gaubil, Situation de Holin en Tartarie*, Leide, 1893.

In Rubruquis's account of Karákorum there is one passage of great interest: "Then master William [Guillaume L'Orfèvre] had made for us an iron to make wafers . . . he made also a silver box to put the body of Christ in, with relics in little cavities made in the sides of the box." Now M. Marcel Monnier, who is one of the last, if not the last traveller who visited the region, tells me that he found in the large temple of Erdeni Tso an iron (the cast bore a Latin cross; had the wafer been Nestorian, the cross should have been Greek) and a silver box, which are very likely the objects mentioned by Rubruquis. It is a new proof of the identity of the sites of Erdeni Tso and Karákorum.—H. C.]



Entrance to the Erdeni Tso Great Temple.

NOTE 2.—[Mr. Rockhill (*Rubruck*, 113, note) says: "The earliest date to which I have been able to trace back the name Tartar is A.D. 732. We find mention made in a Turkish inscription found on the river Orkhon and bearing that date, of the *Tokuz Tatar*, or 'Nine (tribes of) Tatars,' and of the *Otuz Tatar*, or 'Thirty (tribes of) Tatars.' It is probable that these tribes were then living between the Oguz or Uigúr Turks on the west, and the Kitan on the east. (*Thomsen, Inscriptions de l'Orkhon*, 98, 126, 140.) Mr. Thos. Watters tells me that the Tartars are first mentioned by the Chinese in the period extending from A.D. 860 to 874; the earliest mention I have discovered, however, is under date of A.D. 880. (*Wu tai shih*, Bk. 4.)