

like many other institutions, adopted this practice from their predecessors, the Mongols. Klaproth¹ is wrong in saying that the assignats of the Sung, Kin, and Mongols were all made from the bark of the tree *çu* (*Broussonetia*), and those of the Ming from all sorts of plants.

"In the *Hui kiang chi*, an interesting description of Turkistan by two Manchu officials, Surde and Fusambô, published in 1772,² the following note headed 'Mohamedan Paper' occurs:

"There are two sorts of Turkistan paper, black and white, made from mulberry bark, cotton and silk refuse equally mixed, resulting in a coarse, thick, strong, and tough material. It is cut into small rolls fully a foot long, which are burnished by means of stones, and then are fit for writing."

"Sir Aurel Stein³ reports that paper is still manufactured from mulberry trees in Khotan. Also J. Wiesner,⁴ the meritorious investigator of ancient papers, has included the fibres of *Morus alba* and *M. nigra* among the material to which his researches extended.

"Mulberry-bark paper is ascribed to Bengal in the *Si yang ch'ao kung tien lu* by Wu Kiên-hwang, published in 1520.⁵

"As the mulberry tree is eagerly cultivated in Persia in connection with the silk industry, it is possible also that the Persian paper in the banknotes of the Mongols was a product of the mulberry.⁶ At any rate, good Marco Polo is cleared, and his veracity and exactness have been established again."

XXIV., p. 427.

VALUE OF GOLD.

"L'or valait quatre fois son poids d'argent au commencement de la dynastie Ming (1375), sept ou huit fois sous l'empereur

¹ *Mémoires relatifs à l'Asie*, Vol. I., p. 387.

² A. WYLIE, *Notes on Chinese Literature*, p. 64. The copy used by me (in the John Crerar Library of Chicago) is an old manuscript clearly written in 4 vols. and chapters, illustrated by nine ink-sketches of types of Mohammedans and a map. The volumes are not paged.

³ *Ancient Khotan*, Vol. I., p. 134.

⁴ *Mikroskopische Untersuchung alter ostturkestanischer Papiere*, p. 9 (Vienna, 1902). I cannot pass over in silence a curious error of this scholar when he says (p. 8) that it is not proved that *Cannabis sativa* (called by him "genuine hemp") is cultivated in China, and that the so-called Chinese hemp-paper should be intended for China grass. Every tyro in things Chinese knows that hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) belongs to the oldest cultivated plants of the Chinese, and that hemp-paper is already listed among the papers invented by Ts'ai Lun in A.D. 105 (cf. CHAVANNES, *Les livres chinois avant l'invention du papier*, *Journal Asiatique*, 1905, p. 6 of the reprint).

⁵ Ch. B., p. 10b (ed. of *Pie hia chai ts'ung shu*).

⁶ The Persian word for the mulberry, *tūd*, is supposed to be a loan-word from Aramaic. (HORN, *Grundriss iran. Phil.*, Vol. I., pt. 2, p. 6.)