

kind when water is poured on it, will float ; the adulterated sort, when thus treated, will freeze.<sup>1</sup> In wine which has long been stored, there is a certain portion which even in extreme cold will never freeze, while all the remainder is frozen : this is the spirit and fluid secretion of wine.<sup>2</sup> If this is drunk, the essence will penetrate into a man's armpits, and he will die. Wine kept for two or three years develops great poison." For a detailed history of grape-wine in China, see Laufer's *Sino-Iranica*.

XXXVII., p. 16.

#### VINE.

Chavannes (*Chancellerie chinoise de l'époque mongole*, II., pp. 66-68, 1908) has a long note on vine and grape wine-making in China, from Chinese sources. We know that vine, according to Sze-ma Ts'ien, was imported from Farghânah about 100 B.C. The Chinese, from texts in the *T'ai p'ing yu lan* and the *Yuan Kien lei han*, learned the art of wine-making after they had defeated the King of Kao ch'ang (Turfan) in 640 A.D.

XLI., p. 27 *seq.*

#### CHRISTIAN MONUMENT AT SI-NGAN FU.

The slab *King kiao pei*, bearing the inscription, was found, according to Father Havret, 2nd Pt., p. 71, in the sub-prefecture of Chau Chi, a dependency of Si-ngan fu, among ancient ruins. Prof. Pelliot says that the slab was not found at Chau Chi, but in the western suburb of Si-ngan, at the very spot where it was to be seen some years ago, before it was transferred to the *Pei lin*, in fact at the place where it was erected in the seventh century inside the monastery built by Olopun. (*Chrétiens de l'Asie centrale*, *T'oung pao*, 1914, p. 625.)

In 1907, a Danish gentleman, Mr. Frits V. Holm, took a photograph of the tablet as it stood outside the west gate of Si-ngan, south of the road to Kan Su ; it was one of five slabs on the same spot ; it was removed without the stone pedestal (a tortoise) into the city on the 2nd October 1907, and it is now kept in the museum known as the *Pei lin* (Forest of Tablets). Holm says it is ten feet high, the weight being two tons ; he tried to purchase the original, and failing this he had an exact replica made by Chinese workmen ; this replica was deposited in

<sup>1</sup> This is probably a phantasy. We can make nothing of it, as it is not stated how the adulterated wine was made.

<sup>2</sup> This possibly is the earliest Chinese allusion to alcohol.