

There is a tradition to the effect that the walnut was introduced into China by General Čaň K'ien.¹ This attribution of the walnut to Čaň K'ien, however, is a purely retrospective thought, which is not contained in the contemporaneous documents of the Han Annals. There are, in fact, as we have seen, only two cultivated plants which can directly be credited to the mission of Čaň K'ien to the west,—the grape and the alfalfa. All others are ascribed to him in subsequent books. BRETSCHNEIDER, in his long enumeration of Čaň-K'ien plants,² has been somewhat uncritical in adopting the statements of such a recent work as the *Pen ts'ao kaň mu* without even taking pains to examine the sources there referred to. This subject requires a renewed critical investigation for each particular plant. As regards the walnut, Bretschneider was exposed to singular errors, which should be rectified, as they have passed into and still prominently figure in classical botanical and historical books of our time. According to Bretschneider, the walnut was brought from K'iang-hu 羌胡, and "K'iang" was at the time of the Han dynasty the name for Tibet. There is, of course, no such geographical name as "K'iaň-hu"; but we have here the two ethnical terms, "K'iaň" and "Hu," joined into a compound. Moreover, the K'iaň (anciently *Giaň) of the Han period, while they may be regarded as the forefathers of the subsequent Tibetan tribes, did not inhabit the country which we now designate as Tibet; and the term "Hu" as a rule does not include Tibetans. What is said in this respect in the *Pen ts'ao kaň mu*³ is vague enough: it is a single sentence culled from the *T'u kin pen ts'ao* 圖經本草 of Su Suň 蘇頌 (latter part of the eleventh century) of the Sung period, which reads, "The original habitat of this fruit was in the countries of the K'iaň and the Hu" (此果本出羌胡). Any conclusion like an introduction of the walnut from "Tibet" cannot be based on this statement.

Bretschneider's first victim was the father of the science of historical and geographical botany, A. DE CANDOLLE,⁴ who stated, referring to him as his authority, "Chinese authors say that the walnut was introduced among them from Tibet, under the Han dynasty, by Chang-

¹ The first to reveal this tradition from the *Pen ts'ao kaň mu* was W. SCHOTT (*Abh. Berl. Akad.*, 1842, p. 270).

² *Chinese Recorder*, 1871, pp. 221-223; and *Bot. Sin.*, pt. 1, p. 25. Likewise Hirth, *T'oung Pao*, Vol. VI, 1895, p. 439. Also GILES (*Biographical Dictionary*, p. 12) connects the walnut with Čaň K'ien.

³ Ch. 30, p. 16.

⁴ *Origin of Cultivated Plants*, p. 427.