

beginning of the T'ang dynasty. It is not impossible, however, that this text was actually written by Čaň Hwa himself, or at least that the tradition underlying it was formed during the fourth century; for, as will be seen, it is at that time that the walnut is first placed on record. Surely this legend is not older than that period, and this means that it sprang into existence five centuries after Čaň K'ien's lifetime. It should be called to mind that the *Po wu či* entertains rather fantastic notions of this hero, and permits him to cross the Western Sea and even to reach Ta Ts'in.¹ It is, moreover, the *Po wu či* which also credits to Čaň K'ien the introduction of the pomegranate and of *ta* or *hu swan* 大 (胡) 蒜 or *hu* 葫 (*Allium scorodoprasum*).² Neither is this tradition contained in the texts of the Han period. The notion that Čaň K'ien really introduced the walnut in the second century B.C. must be positively rejected as being merely based on a retrospective and unauthentic account.³

The question now arises, Is there any truth in Su Suň's allegation that the walnut was originally produced in the country of the K'iaň? Or, in other words, are we entitled to assume the co-existence of two Chinese traditions,—first, that the walnut was introduced into China from the regions of the Hu (Iranians); and, second, that another introduction took place from the land of the K'iaň, the forefathers of the Tibetans?⁴ There is indeed an ancient text of the Tsin period from the first part of the fourth century, one of the earliest datable references to the walnut, in which its origin from the K'iaň is formally admitted. This text is preserved in the *T'ai p'in yü lan* as follows:—

"The mother of Liu T'ao 劉滔,⁵ in her reply to the letter of Yü 虞, princess of the country of Wu 吳國, said, 'In the period Hien-ho 咸和 (A.D. 326–335, of the Tsin dynasty) I escaped from the rebellion

¹ Ch. I, p. 3 b.

² See below, p. 302.

³ The Čaň-K'ien legend is also known in Korea (*Korea Review*, Vol. II, 1902, p. 393).

⁴ The term *k'iaň t'ao* 羌桃 for the walnut is given, for instance, in the *Hwa kin* 花鏡, "Mirror of Flowers" (Ch. 3, p. 49), written by Č'en Hao-tse 陳湊子 in 1688. He gives as synonyme also *wan swi tse* 萬歲子 ("fruits of ten thousand years"). The term *k'iaň t'ao* is cited also in the *P'ei wen čai kwan k'ün faň p'u* (Ch. 58, p. 24; regarding this work cf. BRETSCHNEIDER, *Bot. Sin.*, pt. I, p. 70), and in the *P'an šan č'i* 盤山志 (Ch. 15, p. 2 b; published in 1755 by order of K'ien-luň).

⁵ The *T'u šu tsi č'en* and *Kwan k'ün faň p'u* (Ch. 58, p. 25) write this name Niu 紐. The *Ko č'i kin yüan* (Ch. 76, p. 5), which ascribes this text to the *Tsin šu*, gives it as 鈕. The *T'aň Suň pai k'ün leu t'ie* 唐宋白孔六帖 (Ch. 99, p. 12) has, "The mother of Liu T'ao of the Tsin dynasty said, in reply to a state document, 'walnuts were originally grown in the country of the Western K'iaň.'"