

possible to prove this interdependence; yet it is probable to a high degree and seems altogether plausible.

7. Textiles made from cotton are designated in Mongol *būs* (Kalmuk *bös*), in Jurči (Jučen or Niüči) *busu*, in Manchu *boso*. This series, first of all, is traceable to Uigur *böz*.¹ The entire group is manifestly connected, as already recognized by SCHOTT,² with Greek *βύσσος* (*byssos*), which itself goes back to Semitic (Hebrew *būš*, Assyrian *būšu*). But how the Semitic word advanced to Central Asia is still obscure; its presence in Uigur might point to Iranian mediation, but it has not yet been traced in any Iranian language. Perhaps it was transmitted to the Uigur directly by Nestorian missionaries. The case would then be analogous to Mongol *nom* (Manchu *nomun*), from Uigur *nom*, *num* ("a sacred book, law"), which ABEL-RÉMUSAT³ traced through Semitic to Greek *νόμος*.

Cotton itself is styled in Mongol *küben* or *kiübün*, in Manchu *kubun*. SCHOTT (*l.c.*) was inclined to derive this word from Chinese *ku-pei*, but this is impossible in view of the labial surd. Nevertheless it may be that the Mongol term is connected with a vernacular form based on Sanskrit *karpāsa*, to which also Chinese *ku-pei* is indirectly traceable (above, p. 491). This form must be sought for in Iranian; true it is, in Persian we have *kirpās* (correspondingly in Armenian *kerpas*) and in Arabic *kirbās*. In Vaxī, a Pamir dialect, however, we find *kubas*,⁴ which, save the final *s*, agrees with the Mongol form. The final nasals in the Mongol and Manchu words remain to be explained.

8. Mongol *anar*, pomegranate, is doubtless derived from Persian *anār* (above, p. 285). In the Chinese-Uigur Dictionary we meet the form *nara*.⁵ In this case, accordingly, Uigur cannot be held responsible as the mediator between Persian and Mongol. In all probability, the fruit was directly transmitted by Iranians to the Mongols, who thus adopted also the name for it.

9. Mongol *turma*, radish, is derived from Persian *turma* (also *turub*, *turb*, *turf*).⁶

¹ F. W. K. MÜLLER, *Uigurica*, II, p. 70.

² *Altaisches Sprachengeschlecht*, p. 5; and *Abh. Berl. Akad.*, 1867, p. 138.

³ *Recherches sur les langues tartares*, p. 137.

⁴ HJULER, *The Pamir Languages*, p. 38.

⁵ KLAPROTH, *Sprache und Schrift der Uiguren*, p. 14; and RADLOFF, *Türk. Wört.*, Vol. III, col. 648.

⁶ Cf. *T'oung Pao*, 1916, p. 84. The derivation from Persian escaped MUNKACSI and GOMBOCZ (*Mém. Soc. finno-ougrienne*, Vol. XXX, p. 131), who erroneously seek the foundation of the word in Turkish.