

many pieces of silk, quantities of fallen pieces of stucco decoration, painted and gilded, and the painted fragment reproduced on plate IX.

The next move was to Kan-chou, where an unfortunate riding accident occurred. The Badakhshi stallion Stein was riding became restive, reared, and fell back, crushing Stein's leg and causing extensive muscular lesions which gave him very serious inconvenience and pain for many weeks after. Fortunately, although he was completely incapacitated for walking or riding for some time, no bones were broken.

Turning back from Kan-chou, the route lay north-west through Hāmi and Barkul, then west to Guchen, and south to Turfān, which was reached on 25 October 1914.

Turfān, being of considerable historical importance as the scene of repeated conflicts between the Chinese and the barbarian Huns (or Hsiung-nu), was carefully surveyed and studied, and a very full account of the region is given in *Innermost Asia*. The aspect that has immediate connexion with the present work is the existence of Buddhist shrines and their painted walls. The first of the sites examined was Kara-khōja, where, besides great numbers of miscellaneous objects, many small fragments of painted plaster were gathered, a few of which are shown on plate XI. After returning from a short tour to certain sites north-east of the Turfān depression the next to be examined was Toyuk, 'most picturesque of all Turfān localities'. Among the many cave shrines and temples along the gorge that runs from Toyuk, excavation was started in the debris thrown down from the upper slopes, covering shrines below; and in this, fragments of manuscripts and miscellaneous objects were found. Several shrines on an upper terrace were then investigated with varying results. In one of these was a small room with a vaulted ceiling, boldly painted; reproduced on plate IX. In a rock-cut shrine a considerable part remained of the domed ceiling, beautifully painted. With great skill and patience this was successfully removed in small sections and subsequently reconstructed by me in New Delhi (plate X).

The next site to be examined was that of Bezeklik, where there is a group of cave shrines,<sup>1</sup> previously visited by Professors Grünwedel, who stayed there for two months, and von Lecoq, who removed numbers of the paintings to Berlin. Now Stein, observing the extent of the progressive damage the still-remaining paintings were suffering from local vandalism, decided to remove as many as

<sup>1</sup> See Sketch Plan, plate C.