

tain range, and find definite evidence that in Uigur times, also, the direct route connecting Turfān with Pei-t'ing led up the valley above Yaghan-terek and across the Pa-no-p'a pass.

It is equally easy to recognize the correctness of what the T'ang itinerary tells us of the remaining section of the route between the *Chin-sha ling* and the town of the Protectorate of *Pei-t'ing*. It is true that we have no means of definitely locating the 'frontier post of *Shih-hui*', though topographical reasons point to its having probably stood somewhere near Ch'üan-tzū-chieh or the mouth of the Pa-no-p'a valley. But the 160 *li* recorded by the itinerary as the distance between 'the Mountain of the Golden Sand' and Pei-t'ing agrees closely enough with the actual road distance of 45 miles shown by our traverse reckoning, assuming that it is measured from Hsi-yao-tzū and by the direct line connecting the route below Ch'üan-tzū-chieh with the ruined site near Hu-p'u-tzū.⁶

It only remains for me to point out that the total of 370 *li* indicated by the T'ang itinerary as the distance from Chiao-ho or Yār-khoto to Pei-t'ing indirectly helps to make it appear highly probable that the route via Yaghan-terek and Pa-no-p'a was already in Han times that regularly followed between Anterior and Posterior Chū-shih. In the Later Han Annals we are told that 'going from the retrenched camp of *Kao-ch'ang* 高昌壁 northward one reaches after 500 *li* the town of *Chin-man* 金滿 of the Posterior tribe. These two localities are the gates of the Western countries.'⁷ Now 'the retrenched camp of *Kao-ch'ang*' can with certainty be located at the present Kara-khōja.⁸ The distance from this to Yār-khoto or Chiao-ho is fully twenty-six miles as measured on the map (No. 28. B, c. 3) and by road may safely be put at thirty. Chiao-ho or Yār-khoto lies quite close to the direct line connecting Kara-khōja with the route leading to Shaftulluk, Yaghan-terek, &c., and from all that we know of Chinese itineraries in the Western countries it appears most probable that the road distance recorded by the Later Han Annals was obtained by first reckoning the distance from *Kao-ch'ang* to the political capital at Yār-khoto and then adding to it that from the latter to *Chin-man*. The position of *Chin-man* is definitely proved to have been the same as that of Pei-t'ing.⁹ Hence we are justified in adding the 120 *li*—which, at the above-mentioned rate of four *li* to one mile, correspond to 30 miles—to the 370 *li* reckoned between Chiao-ho and Pei-t'ing. The resulting total of 490 *li* is practically the same as the rough figure of 500 *li* which the above-quoted passage of the Later Han Annals names as the distance between *Kao-ch'ang* and *Chin-man*.

'Frontier
post of
Shih-hui.'

Han record
of distance
from *Kao-
ch'ang* to
Chin-man.

⁶ I mean the nearest route that a traveller now bound for the site would follow. He would descend first via Pa-no-p'a and Ch'üan-tzū-chieh to the Guchen-Urumchi high road and thence move straight towards Hu-p'u-tzū without

touching Jimasa.

⁷ See Chavannes, *T'oung-pao*, 1907, p. 169.

⁸ See below, p. 571.

⁹ See Chavannes, *Turcs occid.*, p. 11; above, p. 555.