

locations, which general topographical considerations suggest to me, must be considered as partly conjectural.

Location of
Chi-cho
Kuan and
Yeh-chê
Kuan.

I should be inclined to seek *Chi-cho Kuan*, the 'inn' 館 of Chi-cho 濟濁, near Chilan, a point which the road was bound to pass at all times, and which, owing to its assured water-supply, must always have formed an important halting-place on a stretch of the route passing arid wastes on either side. The mention of the old city of *Ta-kan* 達乾 beyond it suggests a site even then abandoned to the desert. The distance of 120 *li* indicated to the next stage, *Yeh-chê Kuan* 謁者館 ('the visitors' inn'), and the significant term of *Kuan* 館 occurring in its designation seem to point to the site of Chong-tim on the ancient and more direct road line. If this location were right, the 'city of Chü-shih-tê' 據史德, situated 60 *li* farther on, might well be sought to the south-west of the ruins of Lāl-tāgh, where 'Tati' remains indicate the former existence of a settlement of some size.²³ The distance recorded would agree well with this location; for the direct distance between the two last-named sites is, as the Map No. 7. B, C. 4, shows, just one half of that from Chilan to Chong-tim. But the reference made to Chü-shih-tê as a place 'on the boundary line of Kuchā', i. e. Ch'iu-tzū 龜茲, is rather puzzling. It is difficult to believe that the territory of Kuchā could have extended so far westwards, or that, if reference to Chü-shih-tê as a border town were intended, the text would have been worded as it is; for the usual practice in these itineraries is to mention the first place in the new territory reached and not the last of the territory left behind.^{23a} If it were permissible to assume that some mistake has crept into the text here one might suggest that the name of Ch'iu-tzū (Kuchā) has replaced that of Ch'ü-sha or *Ch'ia-sha* 佉沙, a rendering of the local designation of Kāshgar recorded by Hsüan-tsang and the *T'ang-shu*.²⁴

Mention of
'Red
River', i. e.,
Kāshgar-
daryā.

That the T'ang itinerary has here brought us to the immediate vicinity of the hills east and north-east of Marāl-bāshi is made quite clear by what it next tells us about 'Yü-t'ou Chou 鬱頭州 on the *Ku-shih* Hill 孤石山 on the north bank of the *Ch'ih Ho* 赤河 (Red River)'. It appears to me very probable that this refers to the extensive site to the north-west of Tumshuk, marked by the ruins of large Buddhist shrines, an ancient circumvallation and numerous dwellings found on, and close to, the southern end of the rocky hill chain known as Chöl-tāgh.²⁵ Through the wide gap between it and the smaller Tumshuk-tāgh to the south there passes a dry river-bed, which finds its continuation partly in the Ghōra-akin, and which undoubtedly represents an old terminal branch of the Kāshgar river. Considering the general direction which the ancient route must have followed past Marāl-bāshi and the isolated hills to the east of it, there seems to me to be little doubt that the Kāshgar-daryā is meant by the 'Red River'. The identical name, in the form of *Kizil-su*, is still borne nowadays by the main branch of the Kāshgar river, which passes to the south of the 'Old Town' of Kāshgar and by the river as a whole higher up (Map No. 2. D. 2).

'Mount
Ch'i'
identified
with
Mazār-
tāgh.

We have another definite topographical indication as to the line of the ancient road where we are told that it 'crosses the Red River and passes Mount *Ch'i* 岐山'. I believe this mountain may safely be identified with the Mazār-tāgh, the highest and by far the most conspicuous of the hills which rise above the flat alluvial plain in this region. Its rugged mass stands up to a height of over 2,500 feet above the Marāl-bāshi oasis, and culminates in two easily distinguished peaks, for which our clinometrical readings indicated elevations of 6,330 and 5,910 feet respectively. These peaks attract the traveller's attention from a very considerable distance, and obviously

²³ See above, i. p. 78.

^{23a} Cf. Chavannes, *Turcs occid.*, pp. 6, 9, 13; *Serindia*, iii. p. 1331.

²⁴ See Chavannes, *Turcs occid.*, p. 121; for other Chinese

renderings, cf. *Anc. Khotan*, i. p. 48.

²⁵ See Map No. 8. B. 1. Regarding this site, repeatedly visited by European travellers and partially explored by M. Pelliot, cf. *Serindia*, iii. p. 1309.