

combined. In 719, Samarkand and other kingdoms invoked the aid of China against the armies of Islam, while the Arab leaders sought to obtain the co-operation of the minor states on the Indian borderland. The chiefs of Udyāna (Swāt), Khottal (west of Badakhshān), and Chitrāl, having refused to listen to Muslim blandishments, were rewarded by the emperor of China with letters patent conferring on each the title of king; and a similar honour was bestowed upon the rulers of Gilgit (Little Po-lu), Zābulistan (Ghazni), Kapiśa and Kashmīr. China made every effort to organize these frontier kingdoms so as to form an effective barrier against both Arabs and Tibetans.»¹

During the period k'ai-yüen, 713—741, the Chinese conquered and pacified the kingdom *Ho-p'an-t'o*, and established »*Le poste militaire de Ts'ong-ling* qui est le point gardé militairement le plus extrême sur la frontière du Ngan-si».² From Book XLIII, b, of the T'ang-shu CHAVANNES has extracted the following information: »à 600 li au sud ouest de Sou-le (Kachgar), on arrive au poste militaire de Ts'ong-ling qui est l'ancien royaume de Kie-p'an-t'o». The protectorate of An-hsi included the whole of the present Eastern Turkistan. Chavannes shows that this Ts'ung-ling »n'est qu'un autre nom du pays de Ho-p'an-t'o, le Sirikoul des nos jours». The military post of Ts'ung-ling, or Tashkurgan, was at 500 li east of Shighnān.³

In his chapter: »Les pays de la Transoxane et de la région comprise entre l'Oxus et l'Indus, de milieu du septième au milieu du huitième siècles», Chavannes has made the following résumé of the regions interesting us:⁴ At the same time as China proclaimed her suzerainty along the territories situated north of the Tien-shan and forced her way to the very shores of the Caspian, she did not forget to keep her eyes on the road crossing Eastern Turkistan and the Pamirs, and descending through the valleys of Gilgit and Chitrāl to the Indus. From 720 to 745 the investiture was conferred upon the kings of Kashmir, Khotan, Kashgar, Zābulistan, and Kapiśa-Udyāna. It was necessary to keep open the road through Wakhān and the valley of Gilgit, unless the relations with Kashmir, Udyāna, Kapiśa and Zābulistan should become interrupted. This road was constantly menaced by the Tibetans and the imperial government had often to show her power in these parts of the western mountains. In 720 the king of Wakhān received his investiture, in 722 the king of Little Pu-lu (Gilgit) secured assistance against the Tibetans, in 737 the latter nation was attacked near Koko-nor as a diversion delivering the king of Gilgit, and in 742 the Chinese government congratulated the king of Wakhān upon having broken his relations with the Tibetans, and put himself under China's protection. The Tibetans, however, continued being troublesome, and at the death of the king of Gilgit, who had been created by the Chinese, they succeeded in bringing his successor under their dependency. Consequently some twenty kingdoms to the N. W. of Gilgit came also under Tibetan dominion. The tribute was no longer sent to the court. As China thus had lost her influence and power in the far West it became necessary to reconquer the lost territories,

¹ VINCENT A. SMITH, op. cit., p. 363.

² Documents sur les Tou-kiue (Turcs) Occidentaux. Recueillis et commentés par EDOUARD CHAVANNES, St. Petersbourg 1903, p. 125. — C. IMBAULT-HUART translates this passage thus: Durant les années K'ai Yuann (713—742 A. D.) on établit un Ts'ong ling chéou tsou ou gouverneur de Ts'ong ling qui fut chargé de veiller sur la frontière extrême d'Ann si. — Recueil de documents sur l'Asie Centrale, Paris 1881, p. 104, — and ... on y établit un gouvernement général des Ts'ong ling, pour former la garnison de l'extrême frontière de l'Ann si. — Ibidem, p. 201. Cf. KLAPROTH, Magasin asiatique, Paris 1835, p. 95.

³ Chavannes, ibidem.

⁴ Op. cit., p. 295 et seq.