



*An old Chinese temple
at Yarkand.*

is governed by one or more »Begs«, all of whom are Sarts, who deal with all matters in their own language and even write their reports to the mandarin in Turki. Their official dress, which is that of a minor Chinese official, and the obligatory knowledge of the Chinese language are the sole indication that they are the executives of Chinese administration. According to the size of his district, or more correctly according to its population, a Beg has more or fewer »yuzbashi« under him. These, in turn, are the superiors of a larger or smaller number of »unbashi«, to whom the supervision of a few dozen houses (usually not more than 50 or 60) is entrusted. The Begs and Yuzbashi are appointed by the governor of the district, the Unbashi by the nearest Beg. Disputes of minor importance and petty crimes are settled by a mullah. The mullah hears the case, examines witnesses and tries to effect a settlement on the basis of material compensation to the injured party according to the gravity of the crime. If this proves unsuccessful, the case is referred to the Beg, who examines it afresh with some of the oldest inhabitants (not less than three). These are chosen by the litigants or by the Beg. If the proposal for a compromise is accepted by the litigants, it is submitted in important cases, especially in places close to the mandarin's residence, to the latter and is only put into effect after obtaining his personal approval. These compromises consist almost invariably of material compensation, much consideration being given to the social standing of the parties etc., though other forms of punishment, such as corporal punishment, are also applied. If the proposal does not meet with the mandarin's approval, he either orders a new compromise to be formulated or the submission of the case to the Kadi's court or to his own decision. The same procedure is adopted, if the compromise is not accepted by one of the contending parties. The Kadi's court consists of the four most highly respected mullahs of the place, appointed by the mandarin, and has to decide the case in accordance with the Koran. In the event of disputes