

Tchao rained blows with his whip to right and left, but curiosity forced the people to disregard him. The axle of the wheels was so broad that it almost grazed the booths. Providentially we arrived safely at the house of the Beg Roz i Pish, placed at my disposal by order of the mandarin, who had already been advised of my arrival. I was welcomed by Badsuddin Khan and Abdul Khan, Mr Macartney's local agents. I was given a splendid large room with beautiful carpets and two windows overlooking a garden; my men and horses were also very well provided for. Soon the Russian aksakal turned up to place himself at my disposal. A little later two soldiers appeared, sent by the mandarin to watch over my person and safety. Courtesy in the East is truly remarkable. One man clears out of his house, another sits in a vestibule all day on the chance of being able to render a service etc. During my drive along the bazaar street I met the mandarin driving in a small trap. His elegant equipage was drawn by a mule and preceded by two soldiers in red and a couple of horsemen, one of whom carried an open red sunshade; with the mandarin's plump, typically Chinese face looking out of the vehicle, the whole impression was that this was a scene from a play, and a very pleasing one too.

I spent the day in attending to social duties, beginning with a call on the mandarin, *November 30th.*
a charming Chinese of 32. His pleasant and elegant manners are accompanied by a rather *Khotan.*
amusing, though agreeable appearance. He seemed to be fond of listening to jokes. While he was being brought up in Eastern China and lived there he had opportunities of seeing motor cars and riding a bicycle and seemed to be generally acquainted with European progress, at any rate in some spheres of technical development. — A visit to the highest military mandarin of the place gave me a chance of seeing an even more pitiful representative of the Chinese army than the Shaitai in Yarkand. Physically a complete wreck and mentally a child — that describes in a nutshell this recently appointed military chief of Khotan. — After a hurried meal, before which I again had a call from the local representatives of the European powers, the Russian and Indian aksakals, I paid calls on them and a couple of the leading merchants. I was regaled everywhere; in one house with a sheep roasted on a spit, in another with a »pälaw» and so forth. This made the day rather a trying one. The Russian aksakal received me in a coat of red velvet with green velvet lapels over which he wore a »khalat» with gold facings, the gift of the former Russian consul in Kashgar, Petrovsky. His house is as bright and variegated as his loud costume. However, he seems quite wideawake — apparently keeps his eyes open and knows what is happening in this district.

I am devoting a day or two to the sights in the vicinity of Khotan and am at present *December 4th.*
on the ancient site of the town. No ruins are visible, but over a large area between the *Yotkan.*
villages of Khalche in the west and Gazun-üstang in the east many remains have been excavated, indicating that at some far distant time the area was densely populated. The remains consist chiefly of bones, fragments of glass and clay vessels, terracotta ornaments, old coins, glass and stone decorations, fragments of images of Buddha, gold either in the form of dust or small bits of ornaments etc. The Lasku-üstang flows through the area