



QARASHAHR

Qarashahr lies in an open plain exposed on all sides except the S and SW, where the Sart bazaar adjoins it and S of which the Khaidyk gol flows. The wall is 500 paces along each front, of unbaked bricks, about 3 1/2 fathoms high with a crenelated parapet. The projections at the corners and in the middle of the walls are slight and have buildings on the ramparts. 3 gates to the S, E and N are used; the W gate is closed. Gate projection of baked bricks, 12 yds at the base. Only a single wooden door bound with iron. No fosse and no protected area outside the wall. Inside, a street with houses at intervals; in the NW corner the mandarin's yamen; the infantry ljanza close to the E gate. Many empty spaces. — All the single houses outside are inconsiderable and surrounded by groves of trees. With the exception of them the ground is level and intersected by ariqs, deep and with embankments. — Drawn by the author.

for a time with the Emperor, who sends them home with costly presents. The Khoshuts are divided into 10 sumuns. The number of yurts in a sumun appears to vary. Altogether there are about 700 yurts. In a material sense they seem to be no better off than the Torguts, rather the reverse; at all events they speak of the latter with some respect. The Beise himself does not appear to own more than 150 horses and no one possesses much property. As regards the prosperity of the Torguts my impressions do not agree at all with the reputation they enjoy both here and elsewhere. I visited about 150 yurts and enquired in each about the material position of the owner, and in no case was it brilliant. The level of prosperity seems to be inferior to that of the Kalmuks and the Kirghiz in the Tekes and Kunges valleys. Strange to say, they too have the reputation in Qarashahr of being well off, not to say rich. The most prosperous Torguts are said to accompany the Khan on his journey to Peiping.

As regards the size of the population I should place it at not more than 3000 yurts. The mandarin, on the other hand, stated it to be 10,000. The local administration is entrusted to a large number of officials, either badly paid or not paid at all. In each sumun