

through the village and provides an adequate supply of water. There is grassy pasturage near the village. A picturesque mazar stands on a hill.

For about 3 miles the road goes almost due W with hills on either side. At the point where it turns N over the hills, another track, on which there is much traffic, runs S. In the W at a distance of several miles we saw a broad belt of woodland and what appeared to be the glint of water. On the other side of the wood is a plateau and beyond it, in the far distance, rise colossal mountains, shrouded in snow. The road now crosses a succession of small hills. The ground is stony and covered with gravel with rocks projecting here and there. The hills ended about 8 miles from Chi-chi-tsao-tzu and we descended into a small plain. At its beginning lie the ruins of a small »karaul» (guard-house), past which a stream flows.  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a mile further on, on the right, there is a small lake with salt deposits, enclosed by hills on three sides. We soon reached these and the road went on for a mile over broken ground, from which the rock protruded in some places. At the foot of the hills we crossed an ariq, full of water and bordered by verdure and in some places trees. Our course turned N again and on the right we passed a group of houses belonging to the village of Shih-chi-hu, which numbers 38 houses. Small, barren hillocks stand out here and there amid the surrounding green. A mile or two further the road resumes its NW course. Another mile further on we passed a small river, Huang Chi, on the left, on which there is a well-built mill. On the other side of it is a dry river bed, covered with gravel, the channel of which is invisible. There is a broad band of grass, trees and houses along the high, right bank, developing into an appreciable collection of houses further on. Their grey clay colour is relieved by the red and white flags of the ljanzas, poles etc.

We reached Urumchi and entered the town by a wide road, both sides of which were flanked by several impanjes. Beyond these the road was planted with trees, in the shade of which small European houses had been built. On the right was a modest Russian sign-board, on the left the consulate, separated from the road by a massive clay wall with high wooden gates. The consul, Nik. Nik. Krotkoff, kindly offered to put me up in the chancellery building, where a couple of rooms had been prepared for me. I occupied a cool room facing

#### URUMCHI

Wall with parapet 3 fathoms high of unbaked bricks. No protected space outside it. Fosse neglected, in places built of pieces of stone,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms wide,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms deep. Wall projections  $2\frac{1}{2}$ —3 fathoms deep,  $1$ — $1\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms wide, of unbaked bricks. Corner projections slightly wider and of same height as the wall. Gate projections very large, of baked bricks. Massive gates of wood covered with iron. A gun covered by boards is placed on each of the corner projections. Wooden towers with several roofs above the gates. — Division into quarters inside the wall. The streets run N—S or E—W. The yamens of the Futai and Dzian Dziun have tall masts decorated with baskets. — The wall of the S part of the town is about 2 fathoms high, neglected and breached in places. Fosse small and lacking in a couple of places. No wall projections. — Eplanade open to the NE, E and SE. Probably, too, to the W owing to the fact that the fortress lies on the edge of a slight eminence. In the N there is a chain of hills which commands the fortress and N of which a level, tilled plain extends. It is flanked in turn by larger and less accessible hills in the W on the other side of the river. — Drawn by the author.