



*The Djifu Wang and a less  
important mandarin at  
Urumchi.*

organisation, but the Japanese were sly and brave. It was difficult to say who would prove victorious in the event of war between these powers. He said that he fancied Germany, but his arguments rather inclined one to suspect the opposite. Japan was now one of the Great Powers politically. It had attained well-nigh unforeseen importance. Who knows, it might be like a mushroom that had grown very large, but could not stand fine weather and sunshine, for then it would be devoured by worms and its immense size would not be of much avail. — The Prince is said to have a passion for rifles, cameras and gramophones, of which he has no less than three enormous ones in his house. The main point seemed to be that they should be expensive.

I also called on the district chiefs, the Djifu (Fuguan) Wang, a jovial, middle-aged man who had formerly occupied a post in the Customs, and the Shenguan, also called Wang, but a couple of tones lower. The former, who came from the district of Shanghai, had apparently often met Europeans and had even learnt a few European words, the number of which he had increased during the time when he graced a post in Qulja. It was with an obvious feeling of superiority that he brought out a foreign word now and then in his conversation. The Shenguan was a curious looking man with a head that reminded me of a snake.

When I asked Gui the day before yesterday, whom I ought to call on, he replied very seriously: »Dzian dziun, futai, fantai, njetai, dji fu, shenguan and myself». So he was the only one left and the call had to be paid, although I had spent two days with him without interruption. He left the Shenguan shortly before me, I sent him my card by messenger,