

and was received very officially, in other words all the formalities of Chinese etiquette were carefully observed.

*July 30th.* A so-called upper school has been established at Urumchi, i.e., an educational establishment that gives Chinese an opportunity, on leaving a district school (at every yamen with tuition exclusively in Chinese), to prepare for entering the university in Peiping. The establishment of this school is the first step taken in the province of Sinkiang in regard to the extensive educational reforms decided on in Peiping and prescribed by numerous circulars. Tuition lasts for an indefinite time and depends on the progress made. Only those who prove to be thoroughly competent are entitled to continue their studies in Peiping in order to secure their degrees as master of arts or doctor of philosophy, the latter entitling the holder to the fifth grade among mandarins. Such studies in Peiping probably take not less than four years. The subjects taught in the new school are Chinese, English, Russian, geography and arithmetic. Chinese is the principal subject. Tuition in Russian is entrusted to Gui while a Japanese, Hayashida, is the English teacher. At the moment he was away on a visit to Japan. According to what the consul told me, he does not speak English at all. The headmaster of the school is Tchang, doctor of philosophy, my old acquaintance in Chinese Turkestan, where, in his capacity as an inspecting mandarin (the Wu) with extensive powers from the Governor of the province, he put the fear of God into district chiefs and other light-fingered representatives of the supreme power.

During a visit that I paid him I was able to inspect the school. It is housed in a large building with several small courtyards and narrow passages paved with bricks. Most of the boarders had gone home for the holidays during this, the hottest time of the year. They live in small rooms, the doors of which open on to an inner courtyard, three pupils in a room, their names being ornately inscribed on a wooden board at the door. According to our ideas the rooms are rather dark. Each room has its own »Kang» and a big writing table. Meals are taken in a large common room furnished with a number of small tables and benches. The lecture room is also of a respectable size, though the ceiling is rather low; it has windows on two sides, and is furnished with a master's desk and many neat tables and benches. The white walls are decorated with some maps, all except one being of European origin and very imperfect, with Chinese names. The map of Manchuria published by the Russian Ministry of Finance was included in the collection. On another map that showed the principal railway lines of Europe, roughly and often incorrectly indicated, (in Finland there was a railway line drawn to Tornio), two dotted lines indicated the future main railways of China, one viâ Kalgan and Urga up to its junction with the Russian Siberian railway, the other viâ Lanchow to Hami, where it divided, the northern branch running along the northern foot of the Tian Shan mountains to Qulja, while the southern branch extended viâ Aqsu and Kashgar to Andijan (!). A large gymnasium with various apparatus was obviously a great novelty, at any rate in this part of China.

The headmaster received me in an extremely simple room. Probably he was anxious to create the impression that his tour of inspection had not been lucrative. He told me that an officers' training school was to be opened as soon as the newly appointed Taotai