

Bogdo. The width of the road is 14—28 feet. The soil consists of soft earth or clay mixed with sand. There are no steep hills, nor any crossings of considerable rivers or streams. At 7 o'clock, we reached the village of Kuo Mudi with its big bazaar. The sarai in which I put up was excellent. The village with its 197 houses has no fewer than 30 shops, 4 sarais and a small impanj with 13 cavalymen of Tsoã tchi fupiao. About 30 of the houses are Chinese, the rest Dungan. Another 370 houses are scattered over a wide area in the vicinity of the bazaar. Wheat, gaolyan, peas and barley are grown. The yield is up to 9 fold. Burans are rare, in the spring 2—3 from the W. Snow usually falls at the end of the 10th Chinese month or the beginning of the 11th, to a depth of about 14 to 18 inches and it lies until the end of the 1st or the beginning of the 2nd month.

Izmail, who had accompanied me faithfully for 8 months and was now to leave the expedition, had come as far as this with us. He was the last of my companions from Chinese Turkestan. I had none but Chinese servants now. It was most amusing to watch the performance that he evidently thought it his duty to give because he was leaving me. He cried like a child and it would really have hurt me to watch him, if the slightest excuse had not sufficed to change his tears into roars of laughter. No doubt, playacting is an art the Sarts enjoy practising, but there is also a good deal of real though superficial feeling in these exaggerated exhibitions of joy and sorrow. These excitable, degenerate people with their expansive natures are very sensitive to impressions, but they rarely go very deep. In spite of his want of cleanliness and various other faults I liked Izmail and was sincerely sorry to part with him and his excellent pälaw.

*August 27th.* The road continues in a N direction. On the right a plain extends, on which creeping plants grow, and which gradually crawls up some inconsiderable hills, behind which higher ones appear until they finally culminate in the grand mountains of Bogdo Olo. On the left there were some isolated houses, trees and tilled fields. After a ride of 2 1/4 miles, we had cultivated fields on either side for a distance of about 2 miles, when they were replaced by soft, undulating ground. A thoroughly decayed bridge led us across a slight cleft, dry at present. Khigu, a small village of three homesteads, surrounded by a wall, lies in a hollow, in an E—W direction, between this uneven ground and a gorge, along which the road runs northwards. Immediately to the N of it, at the mouth of the gorge, ruins of abandoned houses were visible. The sides of the gorge are insignificant and the ascent slight. We crossed a very low pass a mile from the mouth of the gorge. The road led downwards for about 1/3 of a mile to a plain, about 200 fathoms wide, coming from the SE and enclosed among low hills. The plain curved northwards round the hills on the right, while those on the left disappeared. Very soon the hills on the right also retreated from the road and we rode for about 5 1/2 miles across a level plain. Our course was now NE, frequently due E. We passed a kind of sarai or station for travellers and a little further on remains of abandoned houses. The hills on the right approached again and the road almost skirted them for a short time. About half-a-mile further on we came to tilled land again, the trees and fields affording pleasant relief from the monotony of the plain.

3 1/2 miles further on we reached Fukang, a newly built district town, surrounded