



TUN-HUANG.

Tun-huang consists of 2 fortresses. The outer one — a wall, $3\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms high, of unbaked bricks with a crenellated parapet. Outside the wall a protected space, about 3 fathoms wide, with a crenellated parapet, 1 fathom high, which has fallen to pieces in places. There was a fosse, but it is now missing in some places. The gates in the arches of baked bricks, single, built into ordinary wall projections. In front of them the parapet of the protected space is raised and an outer gate has been built in it. The wall projections are small, do not flank the fosse, the corner projections likewise. On the ramparts in all the wall projections there is 1 and between them 1, sometimes 2, small tower-shaped clay buildings rising 1 fathom above the parapet and provided with loopholes towards the plain and the ramparts. The space inside the wall is densely populated with the exception of the S wall and the southern part of the E and W walls, along which there is a large, open strip of ground. N a building containing the large Government grain stores. — The inner fortress — a similar wall, of which the crenellated parapet, archway and parts of the wall, in which the inner gates are built, are of baked bricks. The gates are protected by wall projections, 14 yds from gate to gate. The outer gate is 10, the inner one 18 yds deep. On the ramparts above the gates there are pagodas of wooden lattice-work, in the corner and wall projections small clay buildings with loopholes. A fosse and external protected space only outside the walls facing the plain. The buildings of the outer town come up to the foot of the walls that face E and N. Unlike the very dilapidated wall of the outer town, the inner fortress is comparatively well preserved.

The ground is a plain with tilled fields often lying at different levels and intersected by many ariqs, sometimes high-lying, single houses, trees and small clumps of trees, clay walls and burial mounds. In the S and SE the ground is more masked and shaded. The W bank of the river possesses the same character, but commands the E bank slightly. During the summer the ground must be fairly shaded. The river can be waded. 50—60 fathoms wide, firm bottom, swift current, water up to the horse's knees. So much water is said to be drained