



*An old Tangut woman watering her horse and donkey.*

According to Christie, the missionary, the population of the district amounts to 50,000 Chinese and 40,000 Tanguts. The Mohammedans live principally E, NE and W of Sin-cheng, where they amount to 8,000 (including the town) — in the neighbourhood of Sin-cheng about 2,000. — The Tangut prince Dsjuoni has about 75,000 subjects. — Wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, hemp, mustard and some opium are grown. The yield is said to be: in the E 5—6; in the S 6—7; and in the W and N 5—6 fold. In the E, S and N  $\frac{2}{10}$  of the population and in the W  $\frac{7}{10}$  are Dungan, the rest Chinese. — 3,100 tan of grain and 7—800 taels are collected annually in taxes.

It is estimated that there are 5—600 tja in the town, 200 in the suburb. Trade is less than in the suburb. Deer antlers are exported annually to the value of 80—90,000 taels; musk 100,000; mandarin feathers of matchi 100,000 taels and hides and wool to an unknown amount. The latter are mostly sent to Tsinchow and Fuchan — Taochow-Sin-cheng is connected by arbah roads with Hochow over Yangsa, Su-ku-chien, Madjati and Tadzasu, 5 days; Titao-chow over Yangsa, Sugutchyen and Hungto-i, 4 days; Sin-cheng 1 day and Minchow over Hsitatei 2 days; and by mountain roads with Kung-Chang-fu and Ning yuan. — The Taochow district, embracing the old and new towns and their surroundings, is subordinated to Kung-Chang-fu. In addition to the local mandarin a Hsietai and an American missionary live at Sin-cheng.

*April 3rd.* In order to gain time I had intended to ride from Taochow-Sin-cheng direct to Ning yuan instead of taking the highroad over Minchow. However, the mandarin, whom I had asked for help in securing pack-animals and a guide, raised various objections concerning the latter. He advised me emphatically not to take this crossroad. He assured me that for several li it went along a narrow ledge high above the Tao ho. The ledge was so narrow