

undergrowth. Halted at 2.40 p.m. at Charch, a small hamlet on the banks of a stream. There are ruined barracks here (140 li). Started again at 6 p.m., joining another cart, also going to Kuchê. The country was like that which we passed over in the morning, well covered with trees. At twenty miles we passed a ruined house near some water. Halted at 3 a.m., at Yerum-kou (ninety li), a small village on a stream.

*July 29.*—We had an entire re-organization of the party here. The carter of the cart accompanying us agreed to come to India with me for six taels a month. He is young and strong, and understands the management of ponies, so I hope he will turn out useful.

The carter from Hami was turned off, and we took on a Chinaman, who was returning to Kashgar. My boy now told me that he had himself bought the cart and team at Hami for 125 taels (£25).

The boy has sold the cart and team to the new carter for eighty-two taels, promising him twenty taels if we get to Kashgar in twenty days more.

Started at 3.25 p.m., passing over a desert till the cultivated lands of Yang-sar are reached. These are of some extent, reaching about eight miles from north to south, and some five miles in width.

The village of Yang-sar is not large, but the whole country is dotted with houses. The stream which waters the fields is crossed by a good wooden bridge, and the road is lined with trees.

*July 30.*—Started at 4.15 p.m. The cultivation ended after two miles, and then the road became bad, and several very awkward pieces of bog had to be crossed before we reached Bu-yur. We arrived there at 12.10 p.m. (ninety li).

This is a somewhat larger oasis than Yang-sar, and the village of Bu-yur contains two streets of shops. There are also barracks here with about three hundred soldiers.