

comfort; to get even this was such a luxury that I was sorely tempted to feign sickness for another day to obtain more! But here was the pure article in any quantity, and as rich and thick with cream as any from Devonshire.

Of the Mongols we saw very little. They were probably removed from the main line of traffic, to keep well clear of the shady characters who might frequent it. We only came across two of the felt yurts which are their characteristic abodes, and those Mongols whom we did meet lived in houses, and were more or less tamed and settled.

At length, on September 20, we reached Tsi-tsi-har, a large town of about forty or fifty thousand inhabitants, and the seat of government of the province of the same name, which fills up the whole of North Manchuria. But there was little to see beyond the ordinary shops, the dirty streets, and tumble-down temples of any Chinese town. This was the most northern point we reached. Winter was approaching, and already we had felt some touches of frost. We had yet much ground to get over, and so we struck off back again