

CHAPTER V.

PEKING TO THE GOBI DESERT.

“And o'er him many changing scenes must roll,
Ere toil his thirst for travel can assuage.”

—*Byron.*

To return to the narrative of my travels, while I was waiting in Peking news arrived that Colonel M. S. Bell, V.C., of the Royal Engineers, was to come there and travel thence straight through overland to India. I knew Colonel Bell, having served under him in the Intelligence Department in India, so I immediately decided upon asking him to allow me to accompany him. Here was the opportunity for which I had longed. Here was a chance of visiting that hazy mysterious land beyond the Himalayas, and actually seeing Kashgar and Yarkand, with whose names I had been acquainted from my boyhood through the letters of my uncle, Robert Shaw. A