

the north, will, in course of time, gradually force the poor Mongols into the depth of the desert.

I was warned to look out for robbers in this vicinity. Some uncanny-looking gentlemen came prowling about my camp one day, and the guide told me to keep my eye on them and have my revolver ready. But I was in some anxiety about my Chinese boy, Liu-san. He knew I must have a large sum of money with me, for I was obliged to take in lumps of solid silver sufficient money to pay all my expenses as far as India, though he did not know exactly where it was, as I hid it away in all sorts of places ; one lump of silver in a sack of flour, another in an empty beef-tin, and so on. I was afraid, therefore, that if a loaded revolver were given him, he might make it very unpleasant for me one day in the wilds. So, to inspire awe of our party in outsiders, I gave him an unloaded revolver ; but afterwards, thinking that doing things by halves was of little good, I loaded the weapon for him and told him that I had the most complete trust in him. He and I must be true to each other ; I would look after him, and he must