

look after me. If I came to grief he was sure to suffer for it sooner or later. Whereas, if I got through, a handsome reward would fall to his lot. This method of dealing with him answered admirably; he used to swagger about with the revolver, showed it to everybody he met, and told the most abominable lies about the execution it could do. Nobody can lie with such good effect as a Chinaman, and as he told the gaping Mongols and Turkis, that though he could bowl over only about twenty men at a time with his weapon, I had about me much more deadly instruments, they used to look upon me with the greatest awe, and I never had the semblance of a disturbance on the whole of my journey.

Liu-san's propensity for fibbing was not always so fortunate, and he used to annoy me considerably at times by telling people that I was a man of great importance, with the object, of course, of enhancing his own. I used to see him button-hole a grave old Turki, and tell him in a subdued whisper with mysterious glances at me, that I was "Yǎng-ta-jên," the great man Young (husband), an influential envoy from Peking, and that the utmost re-