

tember, with the whole of the Himalayas to cross before winter.

However, I left all such matters in the hands of Liu-san, and while he was making inquiries I took a stroll through the town, and I had here an opportunity of examining at my leisure the new people in whose country I should be travelling for many hundreds of miles. They formed a strong contrast to the Chinese, and even the Mongols, to whose characteristics I had by this time become accustomed. Less acute, industrious or pushing than the Chinese, and at the same time more intelligent and cultivated than the Mongols, the Turkis struck me as an intelligent though lethargic race. They evidently had no intention of taking life so seriously as their Chinese conquerors, but they possessed sufficiently refined ideas to seek for more material comfort than the easy-going Mongols were disposed to bestir themselves to gain. The Turkis had not energy or virility enough to shake off the Chinese yoke and govern their own country, but they were sufficiently far advanced to build themselves comfortable houses, and to improve their position by trade.

One favourable trait in their character, which