

at once struck me coming from China, was their politeness to strangers. In passing through a Chinese town the traveller has always to fear insults from the mob. Here in Hami I could move about if not unnoticed, at any rate unmolested.

It is interesting to note that round Hami was the seat of the Uighurs, the race from whom the Mongols of Chengiz Khan acquired what little learning and cultivation they ever possessed. The men were tall, and some of them really dignified. They were dressed in long coloured cotton robes, and wore on their heads either turbans or small skull caps. The women were very different from the doll-like Chinese women, with painted faces and waddling about on contorted feet; or the sturdy, bustling women of Manchuria; or the simple, silly Mongol girls, with their great red cheeks and dirty unintelligent faces. These Turki women had good features, full round eyes, and complexions not much darker than Greeks or Italians. Dressed in a long loose robe not confined at the waist, with their black tresses of hair allowed to fall over their shoulders in thick plaits, and wearing on their heads a