

tion of my journey from Hami to Kashgar stage by stage. Each was very like the other with but little variation. At distances varying from ten to twenty miles a small village on an oasis would be met with, but all between was barren gravel desert. Away on the right rose the Tian-shan Mountains, but they were quite bare and no snowy peaks were visible from the road. To the left the desert extended without limit.

The villages were generally small and the number of ruined houses, betokening the struggles which had lasted many years, was always noticeable. Small dirty inns, usually kept by Turkis, were to be found at each stage, but the accommodation provided was not inviting, and in preference I used as a rule to sleep on a mattress stretched out inside the waggon, while my meals would be cooked by the side. The weather was hot, the maximum ranging from 90° to 98° in the shade, but the air was dry and healthy, the nights cool, the thermometer falling to about 64° . Occasionally we experienced a cooling thunderstorm which freshened the air and laid the dust for a time.